

Swingers told to park it elsewhere

City hides behind regulations to prevent sexy couples from swapping partners



BRIAN GOULD

A swingers' club proposed for St Albert Trail and 118 Avenue was shot down this week when the Subdivision and Development Board claimed that although the fire code limits occupation to 149, the club needs 324 parking stalls. Apparently swingers need at least two cars each—presumably for the crazy multi-car backseat sex.

I'm not sure how those wacky swingers would manage to get all those extra cars there. Maybe they'll duct-tape a dozen cars together into a raft or have some form of reverse clown-car routine worked out. Unfortunately, thanks to this Board, the answers to this question will be lost forever.

Now maybe I'm crazy, but isn't the whole point of swinging that it's for *couples*? So a significant portion should be showing up in groups of two to four. And even if the neighbourhood doesn't want to admit it, some are going to walk from their nearby homes. Taken together, this makes the requirement for a massive parking lot seem ludicrous.

The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that swingers clubs can't be outlawed on moral grounds, so the Board used the city's insane parking regulations as a substitute. Like most

cities in North America, Edmonton requires businesses to provide a certain number of free parking spots. The usual ratio requires an area of parking equal to the area of the building. The incentive to build more than a single story, then, simply isn't there, and the accompanying sprawl makes extra parking a self-fulfilling prophecy. But these unnecessary spots aren't actually free, and this cost inevitably shows up on the price stickers in the store, while also creating huge driving incentives.

They can't even claim that a swingers' club doesn't really jive with the neighbourhood, because Source Adult Video is just across the street.

In reality, they know that they're requiring a completely ridiculous amount that's well in excess of the usual. If they actually added all that parking to the site, they'd have to build a five-storey parkade which would dwarf the single-storey mall. The average ratio would only require 52 spots, and amazingly enough that's almost exactly what's already there. If it worked as a bowling alley, then why can't it work as a club?

They can't even claim that a swingers' club doesn't really jive with the neighbourhood, because Source Adult Video is just across the street. But then again, thousands of porn movies for

every taste are harmless, whereas the very thought of old married people getting it on will have little kids scrambling to have unprotected sex. Won't somebody please think of the children?

Nearby, the Children's Dental Centre proudly advertises its phone number as 428-KIDS: fully translated it becomes the family friendly message "HAV-KIDS." By the same logic, the whole neighbourhood is only a single digit away from "GAY-KIDS." And nobody wants that. Except the swingers.

Maybe it's not the best place for a swingers club—it's probably not the best place for a porn shop either—but moving it will only shift the problem somewhere else, and nothing can stop determined kids from getting their hands on porn. Still, it all comes back to horrible zoning laws, and it's not just controversial uses either.

You can put bedrooms next to stores and restaurants if it's a hotel, and if you've ever been to Las Vegas, Whistler, or any other tourist resort for that matter, you'll agree that this formula works incredibly well. But try to do the same thing in an Edmonton suburb, and they'll demand that you walk on water first.

In this case, there's no acceptable zoning option for keeping these clubs and stores away from the little kiddies, and because the city's zoning laws are so inept, they're forced to use the equally inept parking regulations instead. Not only is that unfair and stupid, it's also causing massive urban sprawl. Can't we just admit that there's a problem and fix it?

Election signs, not yard sales, make city look bad

KELSEY TANASIUK



This past May, something changed in our fair city—a change that, while drastic for some, went largely unnoticed. During the spring, Edmonton set in place a new bylaw that left many of our neighbours and realtors out in the cold.

Traffic Bylaw #5590 states that \$110 fines will be given out for any sign posted on public property for events such as garage sales. Unfortunately for some Edmontonians, the ban includes some signs for real estate, and the real estate signs that are allowed must follow a strict set of guidelines. The bylaw was put into place in order to curb the accumulation of trash around the city and to make it look cleaner. But personally, I think that's a load of garbage.

It's hard for a city to look clean when every open inch of grass is covered with election signs. Though election candidates have guidelines for their sign usage, the rules that campaigners must follow are certainly not as strict as the ones imposed on an old lady who's trying to sell her cat-themed tea cozies on her front lawn. Public property is fair game for these glad-handing baby-kissers, and while they aren't allowed to wallpaper fences, benches, or trees, they still manage to have their grinning faces peeking out at us from

every nook and cranny of the city.

While election signs are customarily posted every few feet, signs for real estate and garage sales are never posted that enthusiastically, and definitely not that obnoxiously. While we all understand that it's important to vote, let's face the facts: there are still more people that care about lost pets and buying their neighbour's junk than the municipal elections, and no amount of signs will ever change that. In fact, few things short of having two Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles run for each ward and wining your votes via hand-to-hand combat would be capable of altering this sad truth. These signs and posters are nothing but a waste of resources.

However, it's not only their frequency that makes election signs so utterly vexatious—even the appearance of one sign alone is enough to make most sensible people cringe, and design work worse than a kindergarten macaroni painting is enough to make even the bravest constituents shut their eyes and whimper.

Real estate signs generally don't have this problem. They stick to a recognizable colour scheme and provide simple and clear information. Garage sale signs are usually your standard blue and white combo, perhaps with some balloons tied to the side for good measure. One could argue that this makes them just as flashy, but then again, people only post yard sale signs every few blocks instead of every two feet.

So let the super-mom post her bake sale signs alongside the School Board Trustee hopefuls, but make sure that everyone follows the same rules.

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Ipsos Reid

Peer pressure's your friend

Forget what your mom told you—it's good to do things because everyone else is



PAUL
KNOECHEL

The educational system in this country is failing our children once again, and as a result, thousands of students in our universities are only getting a sub-par postsecondary experience.

I'm not referring to poor math classes in high schools or easily cheated university exams—I'm talking about the insidious campaign against peer pressure that has convinced all of us to denouncing a practice that we should be embracing.

Now, I'm not saying you should blindly follow the mob. Of course you shouldn't abandon your morals and self-respect to sleep with the hot guy/girl in your class, nor should you tie a cinder block to your cock/tits just to be cool. But to totally denounce a practice that is essentially an evolved form of truth or dare is lunacy.

Think back: you won't be able to recall anyone campaigning against truth or dare, and that's because it's so damn fun. This is the reputation that peer pressure should be enjoying as well.

Think about the last really awesome night you had—the one where you lied about where you were going,

got splashed, ended up seeing Snoop Dogg somehow, and still made it out of wherever you crashed early enough the next morning to make to your 8am class. Chances are, someone peer-pressured you into that one.

Before that, you were probably saying to yourself, "Damn, that Friday morning lecture is going to come real early—I better get a good night's sleep," and then your friends called you a lame-ass, and you thought better of that early bedtime.

Bringing out your inner partier isn't all that peer pressure is good for: a sense of camaraderie and brotherhood is born from it as well.

It was just the one decision—and perhaps a well-timed tequila shot or two—that kept you from missing the best night of partying you'd have all semester, and it's all thanks to peer pressure.

Bringing out your inner partier isn't all that peer pressure is good for: a sense of camaraderie and brotherhood is born from it as well. I'm willing to bet that your closest group of friends have dragged you away from the solitude of studying and taken you out to a K-Y wrestling match on

more than one occasion. And that's part of the reason you're all BFFs: you know when the others need to be pressured into having some fun, or just to distress. And besides, the next time around, you'll be the one getting them out of some sissy Saturday afternoon trip to Bed, Bath, and Beyond with their significant others and out to enjoy some beers with the group.

Finally, peer pressure can help make you a better person altogether. Sometimes, there are things that we want to do, but a mixture of fear and apprehension freezes us in our tracks. Sometimes, we need our peers around us, pressuring us into doing something we really want to do, so that we may grow as people and conquer our fears. It may be as significant as getting over a deep-seated phobia or as small as trying to master your very first beer bong, but whatever the case, you've got peer support to guide you through so that when you come out the other side, you can triumphantly proclaim, "Fill it up again! It's so good when it hits your lips!"

University students one and all, it's time to embrace peer pressure. It's time to cast off the implications that it'll ruin your life or result in you jumping off bridges. It's time for all of you to join me for some late-night streaking through the Quad—to show our support for affordable student housing, of course.

Come on, you know you *wanna*.

Microsoft's pushing hard to market it—but I just don't care about Master Chief



MIKE
KENDRICK

If you're reading this right now, chances are you fall into one of three categories: you haven't managed to get your hands on a copy of *Halo 3* yet, you've already finished *Halo 3*, or, like me, you simply don't care about *Halo 3*.

Don't get me wrong, I'm a gamer—which, in and of itself, makes me stand out in the third category more than a Nintendo fanboy at a *Halo 3* midnight launch party. In fact, not long ago, I dragged two fellow Gateway editors along with me to Best Buy to brave the harsh, cold, midnight weather of January in Edmonton, just so that I could be one of the first to overload Blizzard's servers for the launch of the *World of Warcraft* expansion. But no matter how many times I've tried, I just can't allow myself to fall victim to the cool, plastic embrace of Microsoft's killer franchise.

My quandary may have started three years ago when 3's predecessor, the aptly entitled *Halo 2*, was released. Around this point, Microsoft was just starting to understand and appreciate the value of a title as popular as the one they'd created.

The original *Halo* was an unexpectedly great success. This isn't to say that its developers didn't anticipate

"Maybe this is why I could never consider myself a true *Halo* gamer. Microsoft has done such a good job of plastering Master Chief's image on every Burger King wrapper and Mountain Dew can consumed by the 20-something crowd that it's no longer about the game, but the circus surrounding it."

the game's popularity—rather, its success brought with it some unexpected side effects that sparked changes in the gaming industry and the way in which publishers do business.

The video games industry has gone to great lengths to legitimize itself in recent years. With yearly industry profits creeping ever closer to Hollywood's annual income, along with a new generation of console hardware caught in the midst of yet another battle for supremacy, video games are a mainstream form of entertainment now more than ever. What was once an activity reserved for adolescent boys and basement-dwelling troglodytes is now a full-fledged market, as an entire generation of gamers enters adulthood with adult tastes spending allowances.

As a result, big players in the industry have capitalized on these new opportunities. Technology giants like Microsoft—who only entered the gaming world in the last generation of console wars—have not only the manpower but the excess capital to invest in multi-million dollar projects, with millions more sunk into the marketing machines behind their games.

Not only have their expenditures

worked on the gamers, but they've also dragged in thousands of new casual players, from middle-aged businessmen to beer-swilling frat boys. I said I'm not a *Halo* fan, but even I've taken part in a night or two of bouts of swords-only Oddball in Midship.

Maybe this is why I could never consider myself a true *Halo* gamer. Microsoft has done such a good job of plastering Master Chief's image on every Burger King wrapper and Mountain Dew can consumed by the 20-something crowd that it's no longer about the game, but the circus surrounding it.

No offense, *Halo* players, but how many of you can honestly call yourselves true gamers? When was the last time you conquered the evil Xen aliens using only a crowbar and a handful of Snarks, rescued Zelda from the clutches of a lighting-spewing 16-bit Ganon, or collected your Blood Elf warlock's entire Tier 5 dungeon set?

Perhaps I'm just bitter for *Halo*'s lack of a mouse and keyboard, but I'll sleep soundly with my plush goomba any night before getting lost in the labyrinthine halls of the Covenant's symmetrical single-textured command centres.

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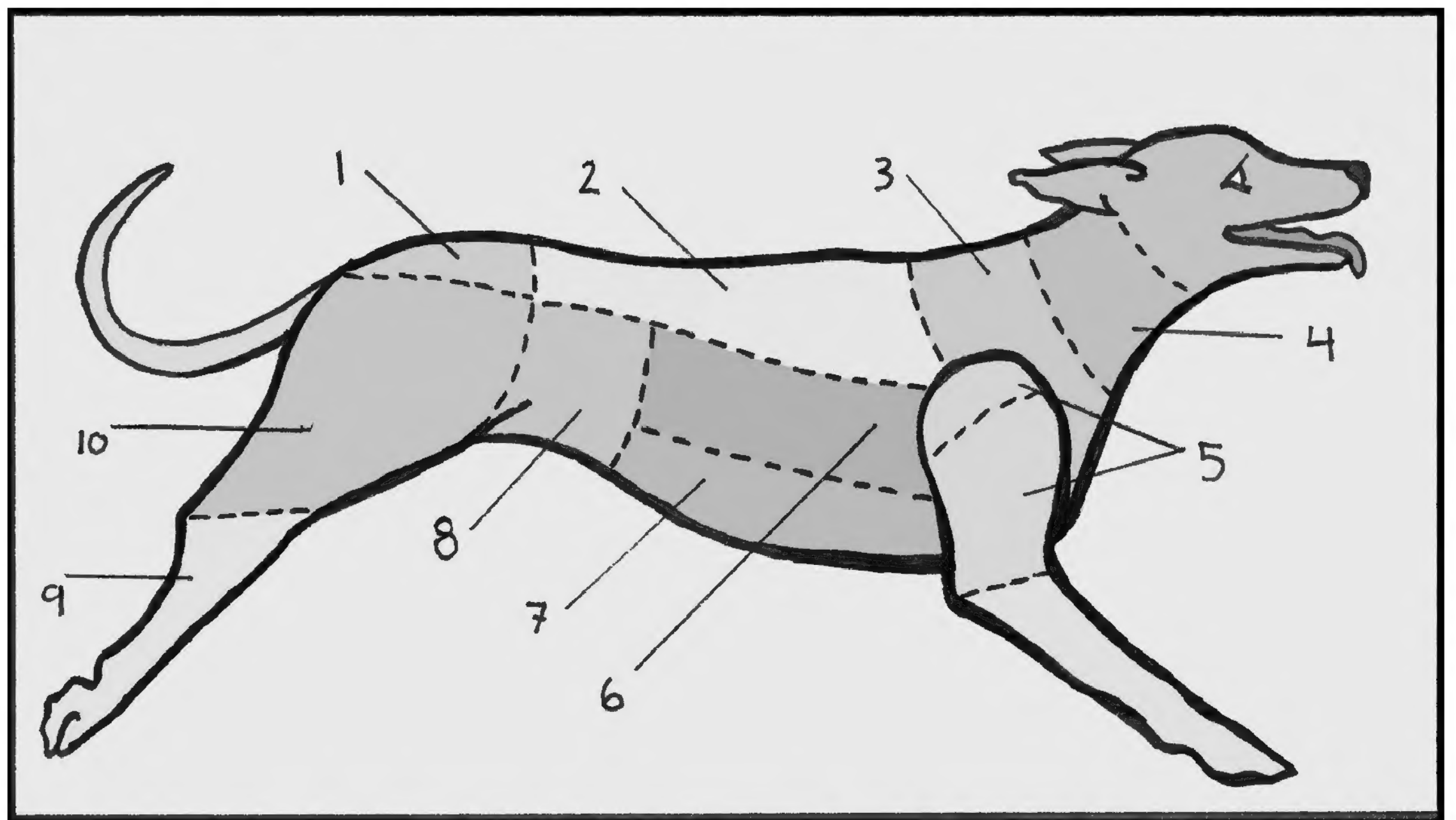
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KATHRYNDUTCHAK

Tastiness no excuse for slaughter

Dogs don't go with fries, but why should it spare them from the chopping block?



MATT
LISAC

about ourselves, pass the KFC, 'cause the horse race is about to begin. I sure hope none of these horses breaks its leg because then they'll have to shoot it—but then again, we do need glue.

You can't pick and choose which animals are okay to kill because then you start playing God, and according to the Rulebook for the Universe (aka the Bible), only God's allowed to play God—it's in his contract.

So let me get this straight: if the person going all Hannibal Lecter on the cats around town because he's hungry, then it's okay? Dr Atkins might say yes, but he's dead.

Either it's okay to kill all animals, or no animals whatsoever. Chickens for KFC get electrocuted the same way Vick and his cronies got rid of the dogs that didn't fight well enough. They both have brains and personalities, and are capable of feeling pain and fear. Just because chicken is delicious (whereas dog meat is sub-par at best), that doesn't give us the right to value the life of one over the other—even if they are man's so-called best friend.

People always argue that chickens, cows, and pigs are food, and therefore,

it's totally kosher to kill and eat them (well, I guess it's not kosher to eat pigs, but let's not get bogged down by semantics). So let me get this straight: if the person going all Hannibal Lecter on the cats around town because he's hungry, then it's okay? Dr Atkins might say yes, but he's dead.

Hell, we're allowed to shoot some animals just for fun. And not just small ones like rabbits—we're talking big ones, and Ted Morton thinks we should do more of it. But last time I checked, deer, moose, and elk are all God's creatures too.

What would you rather Vick and his boys do with the dogs that don't want to fight anymore? Make them keep fighting? Make them limp around in domestic captivity, (sorry, human-canine friendship) with broken legs, constant nightmares, and miles of scar tissue? That's just sad.

Just look at Evander Holyfield. You can't tell me that you don't secretly wish someone had taken him around back and given him the electric bath of retirement a few years ago. It would've been more humane than watching him get his brains beat in again and again.

All I'm saying is that if you're against the killing of dogs and cats, you'd better be against the killing of all mammals—and while you're at it, you might as well throw in reptiles too. In fact, if you don't want to be a hypocrite, you might as well join PETA, or even better, become a Jain. And if that sounds ridiculous, that's because it is—those people are nuts.

It seems like killing domestic animals has become the newest fad. Goodbye Crocs—puppy-snuffing is in, and it's only a matter of time before Paris Hilton calls cat mutilation "hot." I have to admit, after listening to months of coverage on the Michael Vick story—not to mention the serial cat-carnage that occurred in Edmonton's West End—I'm totally sickened. When will it stop?

It's not the pointless slaughter of small animals that bothers me—that I don't have a problem with. It's the retarded double standard that we have when it comes to the treatment of animals that gets my goat.

Nobody hesitated for one second to jump all over Michael Vick when news came out about the illegal dog-fighting ring that he bankrolled, hosted, and delighted in. Obviously, the man committed a crime, and for that he should face the appropriate punishment. After all, there's no bigger moral slam-dunk than publicly tearing someone apart for executing dogs.

Way to take a stand, North America. Puppies are dying? That man is evil. He electrocuted pit-bulls? He's practically Hitler. Ok, now that we all feel better

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

If you ride predictably, communicate with drivers, and make yourself visible, it's not nearly as dangerous as first impressions suggest. Don't be scared to bike, just be careful.

ALEX HINDLE
Human Geography VI

WebCT not the only option

Two opinions in the 18 September Gateway remind us that the university's web-based shortcomings are not confined to Bear Tracks (re: "WebCT deserving of more hatred," "The frustrations of snail mail can now be experienced online thanks to U of A").

Bryan Saunders' piece even proclaims the need for a new catch-all service for email, tuition payment, course notes, and registration. If the PeopleSoft debacle teaches us anything, it's to resist the lure of such monolithic undertakings. Bear Scat arose as a workaround for the failed pipe dream that is Bear Tracks, and equally painless workarounds exist

today for WebCT and WebMail.

Most English and Philosophy classes have already dumped WebCT in favour of an open-source platform called Moodle. Even in early testing it smashes WebCT. Moodle places genuinely smart course tools well within students' reach. More importantly, it has proven quick and reliable. As of mid-September, John Simpson's Philosophy 325 Moodle already boasts over twenty active student discussions. Bert Almon's English 409 Moodle offers a growing catalogue of multimedia on beat literature and jazz, with new content emerging by the week—each link loading in seconds. Students should push other departments to give Moodle a try.

Similarly, the best tonic for those sick of WebMail is a proper web-based alternative like Gmail. Sure, university correspondence is supposed to go through university channels, but here's a little secret: you can easily link a university account to a Gmail account so that everything funnels into Gmail and outgoing messages retain your ualberta.ca identity all without having to touch

WebMail. Plus Gmail does such handy things as cache certain functions to come up instantly when clicked on, sort related replies into conversations, and hold years' worth of mail in a private, keyword-searchable archive.

I've managed to avoid the horrors of WebMail and WebCT for over a year, and don't care to look back.

JASON TREIT
Arts IV

Letters to the editor should be sent via email to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.



Here at the Gateway, you can suckle at the very teat of information. Drop by our meetings on **Thursdays at 4pm in SUB 3-04** and enjoy the warm, milky taste that expanding your horizons brings.

GATEWAY OPINION

Keeping monkeys as pets since 1910

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SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Loreena McKennitt

Thursday, 27 September at 8pm
Jubilee Auditorium

Blending world music and New Age spiritual influences with an exceptional singing voice, Loreena McKennitt brings her musical talents to the Jubilee this week. After releasing her first studio album in nine years, *An Ancient Muse*, this native of rural Manitoba is off on her first Canadian tour since her last album.

A multi-instrumentalist, McKennitt handles both the harp and accordion, and also draws inspiration from several literary sources and poems for her lyrics, creating a complex, elegant sound that at times evokes the Scottish Highlands and at others takes you to the sands of the Middle East.

The Boss of It All

Directed by Lars von Trier
Starring Jens Albinus and Peter Gantzler
Princess Theatre
Opening 28 September

With versions of *The Office* popping up in countries around the world, we all knew it wouldn't be long before the Danish took a stab at the burgeoning workplace-comedy genre. But with critically acclaimed director Lars von Trier at the helm, this is a whole new spin on the theme, both plot-wise and visually. To tell this story of an IT company hiring an actor to be president solely so that the company can be sold off, von Trier pioneered a unique filming style he dubbed "Automavision."

With this technique, a cinematographer chooses the best fixed camera position, then all other elements of the shot, such as tilt and pan, are randomized by a computer without human influence, which achieves a distinct, sometimes odd framing and appearance for the film.



Def Leppard

with Styx
Monday, 1 October at 7:30pm
Rexall Place

It's certainly been one hell of a month for classic rock fans in Edmonton. Jethro Tull just came through town, and now we've got Def Leppard and Styx together, two more bands that will make people wonder if they've stepped into a time vortex to the '80s.

Though you'd figure it would be a problem fitting a pair of Depends underneath skin-tight leather pants, both bands have soldiered on, with the Lep embarking on a 52-date tour and recording a new album, *Songs From the Sparkle Lounge*, due out in 2008. And as for Styx? Well, they're still just exchanging oriental pleasantries with Mr Roboto.

Martin Sexton

Tuesday, 2 October at 8pm
Myer Horowitz Theatre

Touring on the heels of his recently released album *Seeds*, Boston folk rocker Martin Sexton hits the Myer Horowitz next Tuesday. A previous National Academy of Songwriters winner for Artist of the Year, the 41-year-old melds jazz, doo-wop, soul, blues, and folk together into a light, relaxing sound. And with song offerings like "Happy," "Glory Bound," and "Hallelujah," you can be certain that this concert is 100 per cent emo-free.

JOHN KMECH
The invisible hand of A&E



'Grotesque burlesque' strips *Macbeth*

Director Michelle Kennedy talks about finding a venue to hold 'incredible amounts of disgusting sex' in *Ubu Roi*, Mischief and Mayhem theatre's skin-show twist on Shakespearean classic

theatrepreview

Ubu Roi

Runs from Thursday, 27 September to Sunday, 30 September at 8pm
Directed by Michelle Kennedy
Starring Clarice Eckford, Amy Keating, Allison Murch, and Jozel Campbell
Tickets at the door
Avenue Skatepark (90030 118 Ave)

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Pussycat Dolls have taken burlesque out of the dimly lit clubs and paraded it around in our homes via television. But for all of their alluring "don't cha's" and pant-tightening dance moves, the Dolls' videos and music present a 14A brand of sex; mom might not approve, but there's nothing so graphic that she'll actually complain about it. This MuchMusic offering is sex on a leash—only in a restrained, not-kinky sense.

So leave it to a theatre company called Mischief and Mayhem to try and bring some genuine sexy back. The local company is putting on *Ubu Roi*, a "grotesque burlesque" that's loosely based on *Macbeth*. That's right: an adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy of hubris being presented in sexy-dance form.

Before any of you English majors break into a cold sweat, however, inquiring minds should know that it's not just a skanked up version of the classic play. Rather, *Ubu Roi* is an adaptation of play written in the 1800s about the *Macbeth*, as director Michelle Kennedy explains.

"It was originally a spoof of *Macbeth*, so the structure of the original play is very loosely based around *Macbeth*, and the plot structure's kind of the same." She explains. "There's no witches, and this version you'd be hard pressed to find *Macbeth* in it ... except maybe [that] Lady Macbeth convinces Macbeth to take over, and the kings' son gets revenge."

Ubu Roi is the third production for Mischief and Mayhem, which Kennedy and some friends formed a few years ago. As it stands, Kennedy is the artistic director of the company, although she used to have a bit more help than she currently does.

"I had a partner, and she moved to Victoria in September—all the better for her, but it made my job tons of work," Kennedy says. "I'm going to school full-time doing an arts management program, and I'm producing this whole show. I have great help, but there's things that I just have to do. And I'm kind of a control freak. And then directing on top of that. And the adaptation [...] I get really bored if I'm not really busy."

"[I chose] burlesque because I wanted to do the play with women, and I thought, 'What's the best way to put women in this really gross, violent play, to also draw attention to a way heightened sexuality, and make it all really gross.'"

MICHELLE KENNEDY
DIRECTOR OF *UBU ROI*

In dealing with producing and directing the show, she's chosen a unique venue to perform the show in: Avenue Skatepark. An unusual choice, but one that Kennedy zealously defends. Besides, the venue's cost fits snugly into her humble budget.

"[I picked Avenue] first of all because it's cheap; honestly, a lot of real theatres in Edmonton are incredibly expensive, and I just don't have that kind of money," Kennedy admits. "I decided really late to do the show, so I didn't really get any grants—and I still would've had

to pay up front, even if I got a grant two months down the road.

"I think Avenue is an untapped resource," she continues, highlighting the perks of the place. "It's a really interesting space; there's a lot of options for playing areas and for style. They're really interested in doing as many things as possible with the place. They have shows there all the time."

Still, it seems bizarre to juxtapose a burlesque show with skateboarders kick-flipping their nights away outside. It's much more common for bands to perform at the venue, but if anyone showed up at the Skatepark mistakenly expecting to hear a band, they wouldn't be completely disappointed—local scenesters Illfit Outfit have composed the score for *Ubu Roi*.

"[Illfit bassist] Doug Hoyer's a friend of mine, so I just called him up and said 'Hey, do you guys want to write a score?' Kennedy explains. "And I met with him and [vocalist] Liam, and they were totally all for it. Not every band in Edmonton's great, but there are a lot of really great bands, and I think that Illfit Outfit is doing something quite unique in their style. They seem really unconcerned with being cool."

This disconcert with appearances seems to be at the center of *Ubu Roi*, too. Despite the trendy, Pussycat Dolls image of burlesques, Kennedy remains unafraid to take that image and warp it beyond recognition, even if it's not currently in vogue.

"I chose a style of burlesque [...] it's not like a Suicide Girls burlesque; it's a grotesque burlesque," she explains. "[It's] really, really gross, rooted in our basest human bodily functions, and [I chose] burlesque because I wanted to do the play with women, and I thought, 'What's the best way to put women in this really gross, violent play, to also draw attention to a way heightened sexuality, and make it all really gross.'"

"Not only do they fight and start wars and do all those other things women aren't supposed to do, but they also have incredible amounts of disgusting sex."

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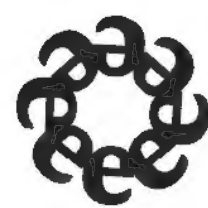
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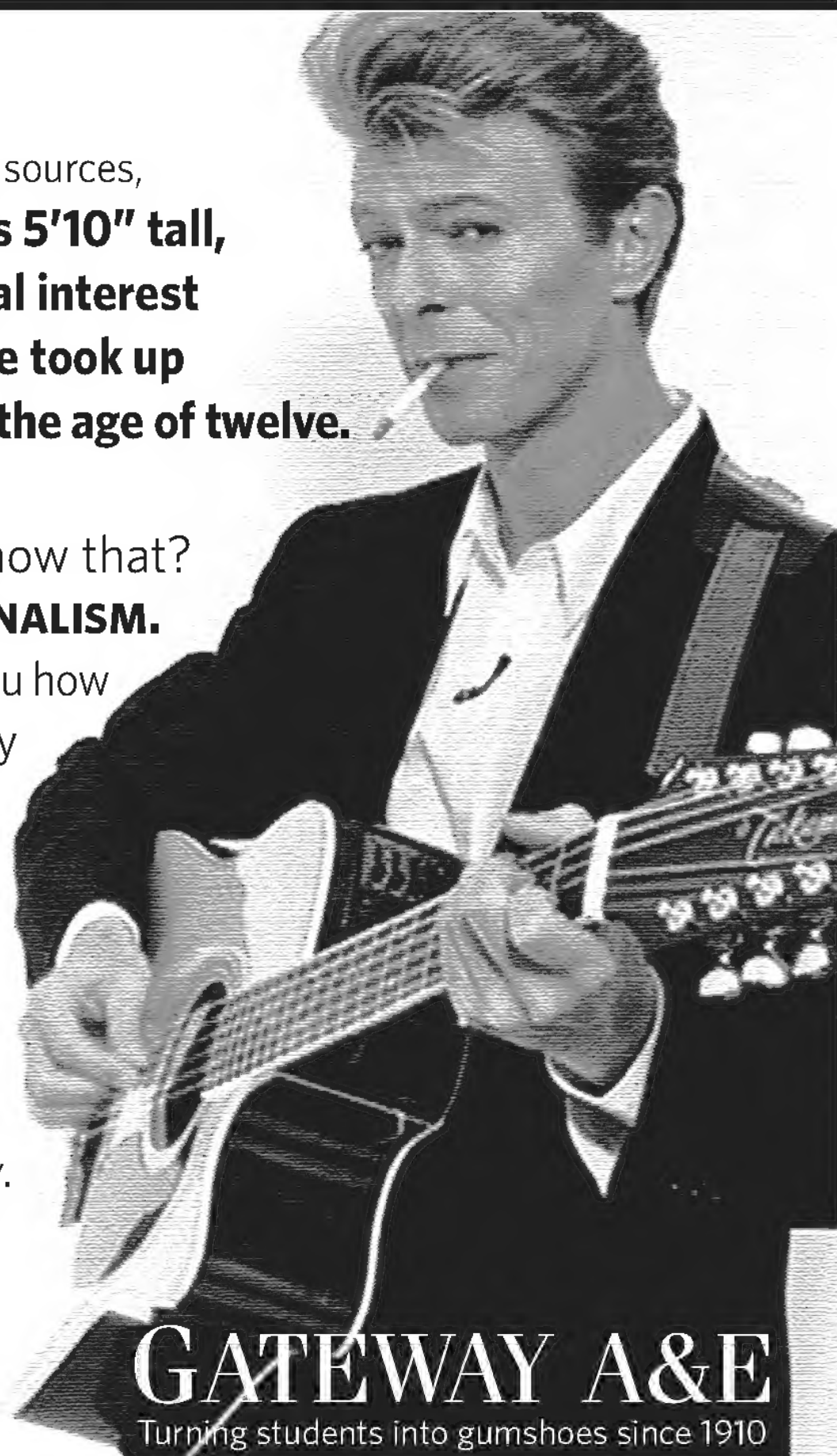
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Break-in fails to slow down Tour de Pants

musicpreview

Trole

With the Raygun Cowboys and the Igniters

Friday, 28 September at 8pm
Velvet Underground

JORDAN ABEL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Trole peddles in just one thing: balls-out, roots-oriented rock & roll with a modern twist. The quartet has been around since 2000, but they've just signed their first record deal with Flying Saucer Records, a label that caters primarily to the psychobilly and rockabilly markets.

Trole have taken on a number of diverse influences over the years, as Karvellius Bob, the band's drummer, explains with a laugh: "Like, everything: '50s, '60s, modern influences. Tom Waits! Well, I guess he's not exactly modern. We've got some very old-school influences. I love Elvis. I love the showmanship of old school rock & roll. Trole is a new twist on showmanship."

Such boasts have to be backed up, of course, and while the band maintains that showmanship is an integral part of their shows, they also insist that being technically proficient with their instruments is just as important.

"The showmanship has gotta be there, but at the same time, we can all play well," Bob says. "We can all play our instruments well. There's nothing I hate more than going to show that's all flash, [but] the guys can barely play their instruments."

"We take our instruments seriously; we like to have that element in our music," he continues. "I think it's pretty honest. We don't rely on props, just the raw energy of the band."

Like many young bands, Trole's ultimate plans as a band are modest.

"Our goal is to build up a solid fan base. Because, once you have that, the rest sort of follows," Bob notes. Meanwhile, the short-term goal is to "fill clubs."

But even with reasonable ambitions, trouble can suddenly can unexpectedly stop the rock, a fact that Trole learned in Winnipeg.

"Our van was broken into," Bob

explains with a sigh. "We were thinking one of us would have to sleep in the van, you know, with a crowbar, in case anyone tried to [break in] again. All of our equipment was with us up in the hotel; we were pretty lucky in that regard. But Josh and Trole's mom had made these awesome cookies, and those fuckers just stomped all over them. They were mangled. And they stole our box of suckers. They broke through the passenger side window, [and] just ransacked the van. The window's all duct taped up now."

"I mean, if our equipment had been in the van, and if it had been stolen, we couldn't make any more money," he adds. "We wouldn't even have enough to get home."

Fortunately, they don't have to hitchhike back to Ontario, and can continue their strangely titled "Tour de Pants." If you're confused, don't worry; Bob doesn't understand the title, either.

"You know what? I don't know. I don't get why it's called the Tour de Pants. [The other guys] have jokes I don't get. Maybe they're just above me," he laughs. "I'm the primitive one of the band."

culturaobscura

Lomography

VICTOR VARGAS
Online Coordinator

Somewhere out there, a legion of people exist armed with cameras that were old when Ataris were in their infancy. These individuals use archaic machines and spurts of inspiration to take random photos of things that fancy them and develop their film in chemical-drenched temples known as "dark rooms." These individuals have forsaken the heresy of the digital cameras and Photoshop in favour of the art of lomography.

Lomography came into being in 1991, when a group of businessmen obtained a Soviet-era Lomo LC-A camera. They proceeded to take random photos of whatever they wanted and sent them to art shows. Surprisingly, the galleries fell in love with the Lomo photos, and the business guys decided they were onto something. After several wacky adventures involving Russian camera factories and deputy mayor Vladimir Putin of St Petersburg, lomography now boasts over one million followers worldwide.

What has seduced so many into lomography is that it really is a liberating experience. Its motto of "don't think, just shoot" encourages the

faithful to take a relaxed approach, shoot lots of off-the-cuff pictures, and see what they get. While a lot of useless junk is captured, every once in a while people end up with some amazing photos. Plus, just taking the cameras out, messing around with experimental lenses, and having an excuse to have a dark room is really fun. And because Lomography is so relaxed, the Internet has been the glue that has held the community together—even though it represents the technology that Lomo-lovers reject.

Every day, lomographers of the world upload 6000-10 000 pictures and keep in constant contact with each other on Lomo-specific chatrooms and forums. Also, the Internet has made the job of looking for obsolete cameras easy thanks to places like the Lomographic Society's online store.

Enthusiasts do warn, however, that sometimes lomographers can be downright creepy. Disciples of lomography are asked to take their Lomo camera everywhere, shoot what they please, and get as close to their target as possible, which makes for certain awkward situations like people being startled by a camera suddenly stuck in their face. Fortunately, these instances are few and far between, and the community hopes that one day they'll step out of the shadows, and their cult will overrun the photographic world with random pictures.

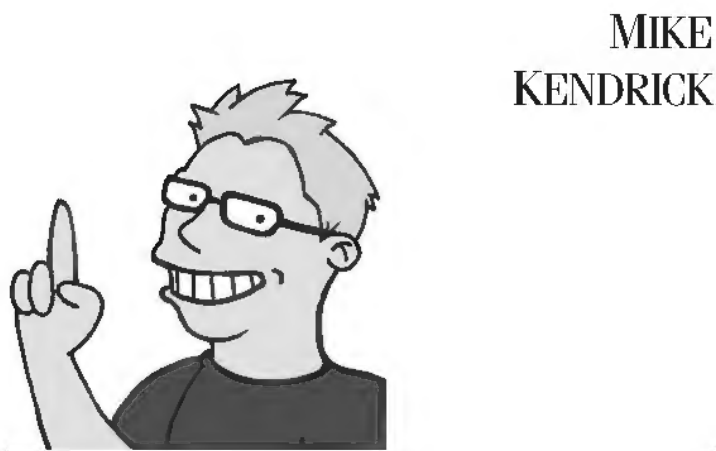
RULES FOR LOMOGRAPHY

Taken from www.lomography.com

1. Take your Lomo everywhere you go.
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3. Lomography is not an interference in your life, but a part of it.
4. Shoot from the hip.
5. Approach the objects of your lomographic desire as close as possible.
6. Don't think.
7. Be fast.
8. You don't have to know beforehand what you've captured on film.
9. You don't have to know afterwards, either.
10. Don't worry about the rules.



Simpsons season opener leaves viewers reaching for their Duff



MIKE
KENDRICK

Some time not so long ago, you could turn on your television set on a Sunday evening and be treated to the timeless quips and hilarious antics of the yellow-skinned family known as the Simpsons. Each episode packed in 23 solid minutes of laughter and talented writing from entertainment greats, along with some thought-provoking social commentary.

Sadly, around the ninth or tenth season of the show's run, the laughter started to quiet, and fans knew that the golden age was over. *The Simpsons* would never be the same again.

And yet, after being assaulted by an endless barrage of marketing and hype more encompassing than Mr Burns' sun-blocking disc this summer, millions of fans worldwide decided to give Matt Groening's entourage a second chance. *The Simpsons Movie* opened in theatres with a bang, breaking several box office records and grossing \$30.7 million on its opening day in the US alone.

Remarkably, it wasn't terrible. Veteran writers of the show's glory years were brought back: Albert Brooks, John Schwarzwelder, and George Meyer each graced the screen-play with their magic touch, reminding us of the days when Homer's stupidity still had a charming wit, and he wasn't just playing catch-up

with Peter Griffin. While it was no Season 6, the film packed several memorable gags paying homage to earlier seasons, with references that only the most devoted of fans would catch. And despite destroying the entire town of Springfield (relax, it's not that big of a spoiler), it sparked a renewed hope for the new season ahead.

Sadly, around the ninth or tenth season of the show's run, the laughter started to quiet, and fans knew that the golden age was over. *The Simpsons* would never be the same again.

Premiering this Sunday past, *The Simpsons'* 19th season had some great expectations to live up to. Things started off well, with the opening sequence promising the same Grade-A material that the movie had brought back from the show's archives. Picking up where the film left off, Bart performs his skateboard routine through Springfield, now in shambles and being rebuilt by its residents. Even Spider Pig, the surprise hit star from the movie, makes an appearance in the couch gag, raising spirits for the episode to come.

However, the opening act is no different than any that the show

has been spewing out for the past six or seven seasons. A basic setup, complete with needless slapstick and a stupid Homer act (hey, Al Jean, we get it: Homer isn't smart), is crammed into the first few minutes before jetting ahead into a main plot that's completely unrelated to the prologue. Throw in an unnecessary celebrity cameo by Lionel Richie dumbing down his own lyrics with a Homerized rendition of "Say You, Say Me," and the episode puts the shows directly on course for yet another disaster of a season.

And suddenly, after the commercial break, a mysterious stranger enters from stage left. Could it be? Is that—why, yes it is! Stephen Colbert, playing a character who's not Stephen Colbert! Alright, maybe he looks like Colbert, and dresses like Colbert, and uses all of the same Colberisms that Colbert himself uses, but in a casting choice that hasn't even been considered recently, a celebrity providing only his voice for an original character is a welcome change in the world of *Simpsons* cameos.

Sadly, Colbert's appearance is truly the peak of the episode. Followed by the overused "Homer gets a new job" angle and yet another needless musical montage, the episode quickly sinks back down into the depths whence it came, to await a fan of less discriminating tastes.

As most fans know, *The Simpsons* has been on the air for about five years too many—it's about time for the show to make like Bleeding Gums Murphy and Dr Marvin Monroe and head up to that big cartoon retirement home in the sky.



NADIYA BALUKH

STEALIN' THE SHOW 40 Thieves opened wide when they released their EP at the Starlite Room last Saturday night.



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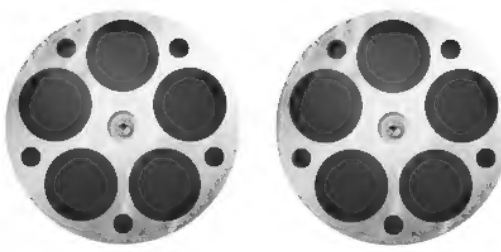
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Grant MacEwan College (City Centre)
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Boys skipping out on nights in

musicpreview

Boys Night Out

With Sick City, Sights & Sounds, and Living with Lions
Thursday, 27 September at 7pm
Starlite Room

KELSEY TANASIUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

the show on the road—though not always with each other. The self-proclaimed “Band to End all Bands” has a slight reputation for gaining members from other groups, only to have those bands promptly fall apart. Hopefully though, there’s something to be said for their ability to track down talent—talent that’s landed them tours with big names like Fall Out Boy, Motion City Soundtrack, and Saves the Day.

musically, and thus their latest release is self-titled. But they’ve also been known to call themselves “the greatest live band from the Great White North,” and putting a sticker on the album that reads “Following in the tradition of their own greatness.”

The band reeks of confidence, but only through gloating like this can they let go of any safety blankets they may be clutching. After logging so much time on the road—with or without glamorous rockstar lifestyles—Davis feels they’ve done just that. Emo, screamo, or prog-rock, no matter how you say it, Boys Night Out has the confidence and mind-altering substances to make a rock band—screaming or not.

“There was more screaming in the very beginning, and then with every record it’s been less and less. For us, it’s pretty played out and, you know ... [in the beginning], no one in the band knew how to sing, so we screamed because it was easy,” he explains. “As we’ve gone on through the years, we’ve learned how to write together and how to spend more time in the songwriting process. We’ve determined more where we want to be as a band. And then Connor’s been learning how to sing over the years, so that’s another reason why we don’t want to scream anymore; Connor has a lot more fun singing.”

“We’ve gotten drunk every night since we left—is that a Tim Hortons there? No?”

JEFF DAVIS
GUITARIST, BOYS NIGHT OUT

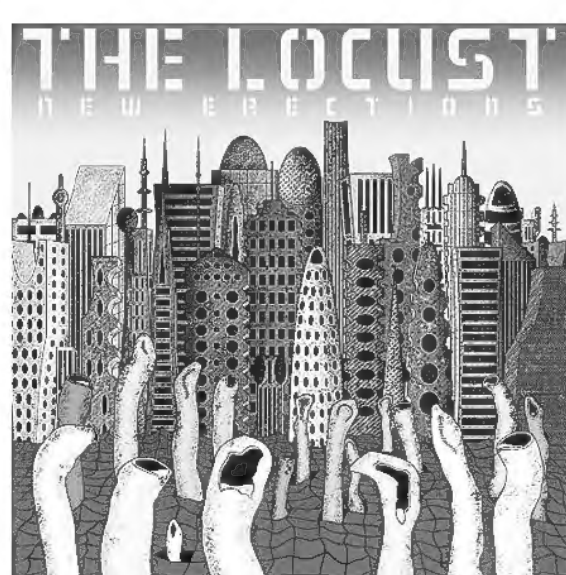
“We’re playing a pretty long set of material from all our releases,” Davis says. “From the oldest to the newest, there’s a good mix in there, so it can keep the old fans happy as well as the new. It’s a live rock show, I guess.”

Coming to Edmonton to play along side Sick City, Sights & Sounds, and Living with Lions, Davis says they’re excited to be back. To him, Boys Night Out has never been in a better place

Everyone from the most scene-friendly hipster to the most hardcore metal fan wants to know what it would be like to be a rock star on tour—after all, that’s where the sex, drugs, and rock & roll all come out. But it’s a secret, glamorous world, and the closest any fans will get to the glory is when a star shares a few morsels of what the life is like.

“We’ve gotten drunk every night since we left—is that a Tim Hortons there? No?” BNO guitarist Jeff Davis says. “A couple of the guys got arrested in Delaware for weed. What else ... we’re all tired.”

Perhaps it doesn’t sound quite as glamorous as hoped, but at least these boys have got the drugs and rock & roll covered out of their rock star requirements. With six years as a band under their belt, the boys of Boys Night Out have had plenty of practice in taking



albumreview

The Locust
New Erections
Epitaph

BEN CARTER
Arts & Entertainment Staff

There’s not a lot that needs to be said about *New Erections* from noise-rock band The Locust. I hesitate to even refer to this as music, as

it’s essentially a random collection of mostly uninteresting metal riffs and shitty poetry, arranged in nine “songs” for 23 minutes of nonsense,

with the end result sounding something like what would be emitted by Megatron fisting Optimus Prime.

I’m straining to imagine the point of an album like this. It feels like punishment—like in a past life, I was a slave trader or something. This is probably what the inside of your body must sound like with a heart attack, a stroke, an aneurysm, and an embolism happening at the same time, with neurons firing every which way and bumping into things like a goddamn magic show.



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CARIBOUandorra



albumreview

Caribou
Andorra
Merge Records

LIZ DURDEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If the idea of a “one-man band” brings forth the image of someone marching around strumming a guitar, stomping his feet with a bass drum and cymbals attached to his back and a harmonica in his mouth, think again. Dan Snaith creates a new name for flying solo on *Andorra*, using a kaleidoscope of sounds to create trippy-but-relaxing harmonies all by his lonesome.

While *Andorra* may be his first album on Merge Records, Snaith is by no means a newcomer to the game. Since shedding the moniker Manitoba and adopting the equally

Canadian reference of Caribou, he has evolved and developed his easy-breezy psychedelic pop sound as shown on this latest compilation. Fans of Caribou will likely find the album a consistent effort, combining carefully selected melodies, retro guitar riffs, and subtle lyrics intertwined with varied and original beats.

“Desiree” is a lighthearted, dreamy sort of song using floating vocals, strings, and a bit of flute and chimes thrown in to soothe you into a gentle trance. The most enchanting song on the album is “She’s The

One,” which starts out with staccato vocals and moves into a melodic-trance ballad.

Snaith’s work is often compared to the Brian Wilson; one will find with this album a strong semblance to the Beta Band, a comparison that is undeniable in tracks like “Niobe.” The last and longest song on *Andorra* has a sound quality that makes one feel they’re listening to a slower, airier version of “It’s Not Too Beautiful.”

As an album, *Andorra* is rather uniform, with understated vocals layered into a musical blend of percussion, sampled songs, and synths. It provides rather unobtrusive background music, not quite upbeat enough to make you dance, but not uninteresting enough to make you turn it off. The artificial sounds of the synth give a twist to innocent poppy melodies, giving an experience otherwise only induced by a tab of LSD—that, or a glass of warm milk.



albumreview

Jamie T
Panic Prevention
Virgin

CAROLINE LAVOIE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

The British invasion strikes again with Jamie T and his debut album *Panic Prevention*. The album plays tribute to his past panic attacks, and this eclectic album does the name justice, with songs that jump from folk to rap to rock to alternative and back.

Openers “Brand New Bass Guitar” and “Back In The Game” promise an album unlike anything else, and Jamie T delivers in his genre-hopping. Punctuated with sound bites

of him and his pals swearing, this is more than an album—it’s like sitting around, bullshitting with your friends, but if you were English and called them “mates.”

Instead of just singing about being drunk, Jamie T actually sounds as if he’s had one too many on “Calm Down Dearest,” with words that slur together in the beginning of the song. The poetic melody of the string orchestra is a beautiful undercurrent

to the lyrics about a tough night of getting drunk and stumbling around London.

Unfortunately, *Panic Prevention* loses its drunken balance further along, and anxiety sets into Jamie T’s voice in “Dry Off Your Cheeks.” The vocals sound as though he’s been crying for hours—or maybe he’s just tired of recording this album by track nine. Maybe this Brit needs to drink some tea and honey to soothe his voice, take a break, and pick up in the morning.

Panic Prevention isn’t without public acclaim; it was nominated for 2007’s Mercury Music Prize and won the Best Solo Artist at the 2007 Shockwave NME Awards. It’s a great debut with songs like “Salvador,” “Calm Down Dearest,” “So Lonely Was The Ballad,” and “If You Got The Money” that are the diamonds in Jamie T’s rough voice.



albumreview

Picastro
Whore Luck
Polyvinyl

KRYSTINA SULATYCKI
Substitute Photo Editor

If Picastro’s latest album is titled after luck that leaves you turning tricks for dollars, is it even worth the trouble of listening to? Should you choose to chance a listen, you’ll discover that *Whore Luck* has some quality instrumentation, unusual effects, and a few other redeeming features. However, these paltry goods are outweighed by the immense piles of garbage that you have to sift through to get to them.

The redeeming qualities of *Whore*

Luck begin with the prominent use of the cello. The sorrowful instrument is used to great effect, both as an underlying harmonic element and as a melodic forefront. The vocals are unique, although their role is often ambiguous, at times dominating and at others taken over by the instrumental harmony. The songs themselves achieve success in a few rhythmically interesting and dynamic passages.

Unfortunately, the interesting

tidbits are spaced out by virtual seas of repetition. Repeating the same chord over and over again in the exact same rhythmic pattern doesn’t make quality music. Echo and distortion alone can’t redeem the soundscapes they’re trapped in, either. Such artistic decisions might have been intentionally planned, or they could just be mistakes that made it to tape—it’s impossible to tell. Only the cello could be called a success on this album.

Granted, there are times when Picastro do manage to maintain 20 or so seconds of well-intentioned, well-received tunes. However, there are minute-long periods where you wonder why you’re still listening. There is some real potential here for great music. Unfortunately, for now, potential is all Picastro’s got—and an album that lives up to its title.



albumreview

Two Hours Traffic
Little Jabs
Bumstead Records

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The ’60s gave birth to a brand of catchy, carefree pop music that convinced young people that all was right with the world. The Beach Boys spearheaded this movement, singing about cruising, surfing, and girls. This influence is very apparent in Two Hours Traffic’s newest release *Little Jabs*.

The album is catchy and upbeat,

mixing folk and pop beats with the best falsetto harmonies since “Good Vibrations.” The album throws in vocal influences from the likes of The New Pornographers and REM; the result is an absolutely fantastic album from a very talented and creative band.

“Jezebel” wins the prize for channeling a jiving ’60s rock & roll groove,

and “Backseat Sweetheart” has the clearest New Pornos influence, yet still manages to retain Two Hours Traffic’s own voice and style. “Stuck for the Summer” is a made-for-sunshine song that should be heard ringing out from convertibles as the passengers’ heads bob and their hair blows in the breeze.

The album mixes these fun, fast tracks with several slower and more soulful pieces. “Arms Akimbo” is a striking example: the falsetto harmonies are in full bloom, a touch that adds a delightful and welcome texture.

Many modern artists have forgotten that the falsetto is a technique they can use; fortunately, Two Hours Traffic have brought this back in a very, very sexy way.

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PETE YEE

OUCH! Jacqueline Smith takes one for the team here, and might have to do it again against U of M.



MIKE OTTO

OOH YEAH! Brett Colvin and John Konye (13) hope this weekend gives them more to celebrate.

Soccer squads seek two wins to stay in it

It's been an up-and-down season for the Pandas so far, and it'll take a pair of wins at home to keep them in playoff contention

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Whether their record shows it or not, the Alberta women's soccer squad feels that they're having a successful season. The rookie-heavy team is at home again this weekend, and they're hoping that last Sunday's big victory against UCFV was the beginning of a trend.

The Pandas (2-4-0) play the Manitoba Bisons (5-1-0) on Saturday and the Regina Cougars (0-6-0) on Sunday, and they need to be successful if they want to stay in contention for the conference finals after a rocky start to the season.

"It'd be nice to say we could continue on and drop some more points, but—and I don't want to jinx us—winning this game would have a real impact," Pandas head coach Liz Jepsen said. "One win isn't as big from where Manitoba sits, but for us, [since] Manitoba's beaten some big teams, if we beat them, it brings us up and sort of makes up for some of those early losses we had. It would impact the standings hugely."

Dealing with the Bisons rather than the struggling Cougars will be the biggest challenge for Alberta: they share the top Canada West spot with Trinity Western, and are ranked eighth-overall nationally. They're returning almost all of their players from last year—an edge the Pandas lack.

"Manitoba's good; their start this year indicates they're better than they've ever been," Jepsen said. "They have the same team that's more or less been playing for three years, so they should not have any of those jitters that we've been sort of working our way through."

Bisons head coach Walter McKee thinks that his players' familiarity with each other has been key to their success.

"You have to develop camaraderie—relationships have to be developed—and get to know how people are playing, and I think that's where we are now. We're getting better in that area," he said.

For all of Jepsen's respect for the Bisons, she's hardly pessimistic about the outcome of the match, as long as they can put together everything they've been working on in the past weeks and exploit Manitoba's weaknesses.

"I do think two wins are feasible, but it's just being able to finish at net," she said. "Soccer's a game of performance, so it's not going to be an easy deal," she said. "Manitoba is extremely skilled up front, but I think they're a bit more susceptible in the back, and we've been attacking in numbers and getting better."

Fourth-year Pandas midfielder Lindsay Stewart has an even more positive outlook on the weekend than her coach.

"I think we're going in expecting two wins," she said. "We sure know that we're capable of beating Regina; [and] Manitoba is doing well, but we do have the team to beat [them] too."

"We sure know that we're capable of beating Regina; [and] Manitoba is doing well, but we do have the team to beat [them] too."

LINDSAY STEWART
PANDAS MIDFIELDER

Stewart has confidence in her team, and she feels that there is talent there despite their lack of experience.

"We're not as experienced as our past teams have been, but I think that we have a lot more potential than people think we have right now, just because we have a lot of new players," she said. "We're young, fast, and fit, and that's what we're going to get our wins on."

Games are at 12pm at Foote Field West.

The Bears are in a good position—fourth in Canada West—but they'll need to keep it up this weekend if they don't want to drop

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The Bears soccer team may be young, but they're determined—that's how head coach Len Vickery explains the success his team has been having. Though they launched their season with a pair of losses, they're now ranked third in Canada West, and made the jump into the national top ten this week at number nine.

"Whatever they lack in familiarity with one another and good possession-play, they more than make up for in determination and desire."

LEN VICKERY
BEARS SOCCER HEAD COACH

Alberta (3-2-1) be trying to extend that success by beating the Saskatchewan Huskies (2-3-1) at home this weekend. Though they're hardly in dire straits, Canada West competition is such that Vickery feels that these two games are a must-win.

"So that we can stay on the hunt and keep progressing, we've got to look to win both games," Vickery said.

The Bears, defending national champions, lost a number of their key starters over the off-season, and have struggled for consistency and togetherness. Their youth has shown in a few recent games, most notably in last Sunday's match against the University of Victoria.

They scored twice in the first ten minutes, but were outplayed for most of the rest of the game and escaped with a tie. It's these weaknesses that Vickery has his team working on.

"We're a team fighting for an identity," he said. "It's a relatively new team; we've got new players to the squad; we've got a number of first-year players starting in key positions, and they're still finding their way."

But though they may not have much experience playing together, Vickery thinks that their strength comes from an extraordinary drive to succeed.

"Whatever they lack in familiarity with one another and good possession-play, they more than make up for in determination and desire," he said.

Vickery added that the Bears have been practicing hard and are working to improve their cohesiveness and offence—particularly to become more efficient with the ball.

"We've just got to become a bit more sophisticated in our possession-play," he said. "Rather than fight through the opposition, we've got to play through them—and there is an essential difference there—and it's got to come from a more possession-type game."

Though they have a slightly better record than the Huskies, the Bears won't be taking anything for granted this weekend. All of Saskatchewan's three losses have been to teams in the conference top-four, including second-place Victoria and the as-yet-undefeated Trinity Western Spartans. In addition, they've beat the UCFV Cascades, who vanquished the Bears 3-1 the first weekend of the season.

All told, though, Vickery thinks the Bears will be able to take them on.

"If we come with the same determination as we did last weekend and the week before, [and] if we safeguard against any defensive frailties and continue to score the goals that we're scoring, we hope to get two positive results," the coach said.

The Bears will take on the Dogs at Foote Field West on Saturday and Sunday at 2:15pm.



FILE PHOTO: TARASTIEGLITZ

TAKE IT AND RUN The rugby Pandas are practicing up to maul opponents such as the Pronghorns this weekend.

It’s showtime for Rugby Pandas

For the first time, Canada West teams will meet before the conference clincher

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

While some U of A teams may get tired of their travel schedules or complain about how much time they spend on the road, the Pandas rugby squad has the opposite problem. Unlike other varsity sports, rugby doesn’t have a regular season—this is the first year in which the teams have even played each other before the Canada West finals.

This year, there will be a seeding tournament in advance of the conference finals, which will determine rankings—a vast improvement over the old system, according to Pandas head coach Matt Parrish. The tournament, which is Alberta is hosting this weekend, will be a round-robin competition between the U of A, Victoria Vikes, UBC Thunderbirds, and last year’s CIS bronze-medallist Lethbridge Pronghorns.

Because there are only four Canada West teams, being able to play each other even once before the finals is hugely beneficial, according to Parrish.

“We used to just base [seeding] on the results from last year, so this year we’ve got a bit more competition and can get an idea of what we’re like this year,” Parrish said. “We get more games over a longer period of time. It’s just more competition, which is

what we need, really.”

The teams haven’t formally met since last November, where the Pandas placed third. That outcome was a surprise to Alberta, who were expecting another Canada West title for their team. The Pandas enjoyed a streak of CIS golds from 1999/00—the first year the sport was played in CIS—until 2003/04, and won the Canada West title the two seasons after that.

“You get used to winning, but you always know there’s going to be a time when you don’t.”

MATT PARRISH
PANDAS RUGBY HEAD COACH

“We [...] didn’t win it last year, and that was a real shock for a lot of people,” Parrish said. “You get used to winning, but you always know there’s going to be a time when you don’t.”

Parrish describes the 2006 season as “a real rebuilding year” for the Pandas, who lost a number of their most experienced players in the previous few seasons. Most of last year’s athletes are returning for this season, however, and Parrish is optimistic

about their chances.

“It’s looking promising,” he said. “This is a good chance for us; we want to get back to winning it.”

Parrish predicts tough games, especially against the T-birds and ‘Horns.

“I think the top two teams from last year—UBC and U of L—will be pretty close to where they were last year. Lethbridge have recruited some good players, and so have UBC,” he said. “I would expect [UVic] to be the weakest team at the tournament.”

The biggest benefit of this weekend’s tournament, even more than the seeding advantage, is the chance to scope out the competition before the finals.

“The advantage of this is that even if things don’t go well results-wise, we still have the chance at Canada West finals to [change],” Parrish said. “Obviously it would be nice to win [this] and to go in as the number one seed, but if things don’t pan out exactly, at least it gives us a chance to try out some of the things we’ve been working on in practice.

“I think it’ll be good for everyone that way. It’ll give everyone a chance to sort of size up where everyone’s at and what we need to do come the tournament in October. That’ll be the big thing.”

Alberta’s first game is 10am Friday at Foote Field East.

SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Robin Collum

V-ball ladies cleaning up

The defending national champion women’s volleyball team will be away this weekend, in one of many pre-season games on their schedule. This time, they’ll be at the University of Regina, though they don’t play the Rams—they’ll be matched up against Brandon, Manitoba, and Winnipeg.

The Pandas have won all but one of the rest of their exhibition games so far—the exception being the match against the visiting NIFS Japan team two weeks ago.

Same volley, more balls

The men’s volleyball team are trekking out of town this weekend too, but they’re heading west for a couple of exhibition games in Penticton and Kelowna against the TVU Spartans.

The only other exhibition action they’ve seen so far has been against the Team Canada Masters, which Alberta won 3-1. Take that, federalism.

Great Lake Skaters

Following the volleyball teams on the road this weekend is nothing—the real travellers are the Bears hockey team. They’re heading all the way to the wilds of Thunder Bay, to take on the Lakehead University Timberwolves. The last time these two predators met was in 2006,

when they faced off for the CIS title. That time, the Golden Bears came up on top.

The Bears have had a pretty busy off-season. On top of a trip to Banff to play UBC, they played in the Huskie Invitational last weekend in Saskatoon, drawing 4-4 against Saskatchewan and mowing over Manitoba 5-1.

Short-shorts / no shorts

Vice-newsie Ryan “I want to have a wedding” Heise is saddened that the seasons are turning because the cold weather means an end to a happy summer of free-balling. Opinionated gentleman-artist Conal Pierse, on the other hand, proudly reports that because he showered today, he put on fresh underwear after two days. “I don’t have very sweaty balls,” he explained.

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Vanessa Garro

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Essays should be emailed to:

Kari Roberts
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THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 8 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 27 september, 2007

New SU policy battles for textbook bargains



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Students' Council unanimously passed the first reading of a political policy advocating for lower-cost academic materials at their Council meeting on 18 September.

The policy, which was introduced by Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel and Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics councillor Jacqueline Geller, is comprised of three main goals: pressuring publishers to lower the costs of academic materials, educating professors as to the price of academic materials and alternatives available to them, and advocating for academic materials to be standardized across the University.

"From 2004 to 2005, textbook costs [per student per year] were around \$1050. In 2006/07, textbook costs were \$1200 for Arts and Sciences undergraduates," Samuel stated. "So obviously they represent a significant chunk of how much an undergraduate spends in a given year."

"The long-term goal is to reduce the cost of academic materials," he added.

Much of the policy is derived from *Rip Off 101*, a 2005 report from California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) that shows how publishers artificially drive up the price of textbooks for students at colleges and universities.

PLEASE SEE MATERIALS ♦ PAGE 2

ACADEMIC ADVOCACY The Students' Union and the U of A Bookstore are setting out to pressure textbook publishers to reduce the costs of academic materials.

Doctors tuning in to new technology

U of A professor introduces idea of replacing stethoscopes with MP3 players

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Dr Neil Skjodt thinks he might have the answer to replacing the centuries-old stethoscope. But rather than designing a new instrument, he's looking to consumer technology that is a staple in many university students' lives—MP3 players.

Skjodt, an associate professor of pulmonary medicine, along with audiology professor William Hodgetts, has been experimenting in using off-the-shelf MP3 players to record and play back clinical sounds of patients, a practice he says is a huge step up from traditional stethoscopes.

"The stethoscope has all that hose between here and there," Skjodt said, gesturing from his chest to his ear. "That's inefficient. If I wanted to transmit sound well, I'm not going to transmit it through a hose. [With the MP3 player] it's a few millimetres before the sound hits the recording electronics; there's a lot less noise loss."

According to Skjodt, the concept couldn't be simpler: a physician

simply places the microphone of the player on the area of interest on their patient and pushes "record." The sample can then be played back instantaneously.

"Its footprint was the right size, [...] it's much more portable than a stethoscope, and the cost is quite cheap. Right now they're going for \$40 dollars US on the Internet."

DR NEIL SKJODT
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
PULMONARY MEDICINE

The idea to use an MP3 player with a built-in microphone stemmed from the desire to have a way to easily transmit clinical sounds over cellular networks from remote locations. Skjodt said the ability to easily do this could mean the

difference between life and death.

"Canada is a vast place. So in your nightmare situation, you're a nurse practitioner, and you deliver a baby in the Northwest Territories. That baby has a heart murmur, and you have to make a big decision of what to do on the spot. You also might not have access to more technologies like a chest X-ray machine in a given centre. So, we're very interested in how to transmit things over cellular networks."

After experimenting with various microphones and cellphones with amplifiers, Skjodt opted for a cheap MP3 player with a built-in microphone. He chose a device with open-source firmware so that it can easily be tweaked and upgraded to achieve the best possible recordings, and stressed that the price of these devices makes them a very attractive alternative to stethoscopes.

"Its footprint was the right size, [...] it's much more portable than a stethoscope, and the cost is quite cheap. Right now they're going for \$40 dollars US on the Internet," he said.

PLEASE SEE MP3 ♦ PAGE 3

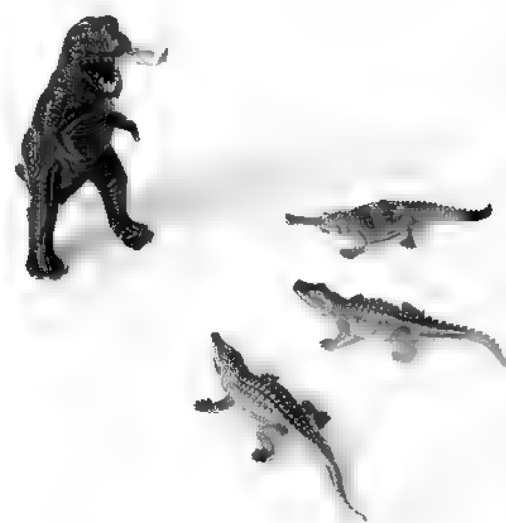


KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

LAW FACULTY COURTS NEW IDEAS The U of A is set to establish a chair in energy law and policy after receiving a hefty donation. See story page 3.

Inside

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Let's jump off bridges ...

Paul Knoechel explores the lighter side of peer pressure. You should read it because everybody else is.

OPINION, PAGE 11



... without clothes on

Mischief and Mayhem theatre present *Ubu Roi*, a burlesque version of *Macbeth*. At a skate park.

A&E, PAGE 13

Pandas look to keep Dinos’ losing streak alive

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

In Canada West field hockey, the list of opponents is as short as their sticks, but competition is fierce. The Pandas (1–3) may have started off a little slowly this season, but hope to even out their record by getting a pair of wins against the University of Calgary Dinos this weekend.

“Honestly, we really need two wins. Two wins puts us right back into contention,” Alberta head coach Carla Duncan said. “It’s a big thing to ask—two wins against any team in Canada West is a good weekend.”

If they’re going to pull it off—Alberta hasn’t swept a weekend yet this year—now seems the likeliest time. U of C (0–4) are the only Canada West team below the Pandas, who managed to beat UBC in the season-opener two weeks ago.

“Calgary are probably going to be our weakest opponent out of Canada West, so I think we have a very good chance of scoring some goals, having some good possessions, and outplaying them,” Alberta midfielder Erin Mason said. “Hopefully we go in not too over-confident.”

The fourth-year player feels Alberta’s record doesn’t do them justice and that the young team can stand up to the Canada West competition.

The Pandas lost both their games in Victoria last weekend, but it didn’t get Mason down too much.

“I think we outplayed them quite a bit actually,” she said. “Four out of their five goals were on short corners, which is unfortunate—they had a really good short corner unit—and I think we had a lot more attacking chances than them, but we just weren’t able to capitalize on them.”

Duncan was pleased with much of the past weekend’s performance too, but thought it exposed weaknesses—particularly in finishing.

“We thought that we were scored on a little bit too easily,” she said. “We’ve tried to be a little bit better with our cover defense, entry into the circle, and generating a little bit more offence. We’ve actually been generating opportunities—we just need to work on putting the ball in the net.”

The Pandas are still getting to know each other, too. With six rookies and only one fifth-year, learning to play as a unit has been their main focus all season.

“We’re working on playing as a team,” said Jennifer Zwicker, the lone senior. “We’ve got a lot of new players, so [we’re] just trying to get them into the groove of things.”

“We’ve got some good attacks and good defence, so just playing as a team is our big thing.”



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

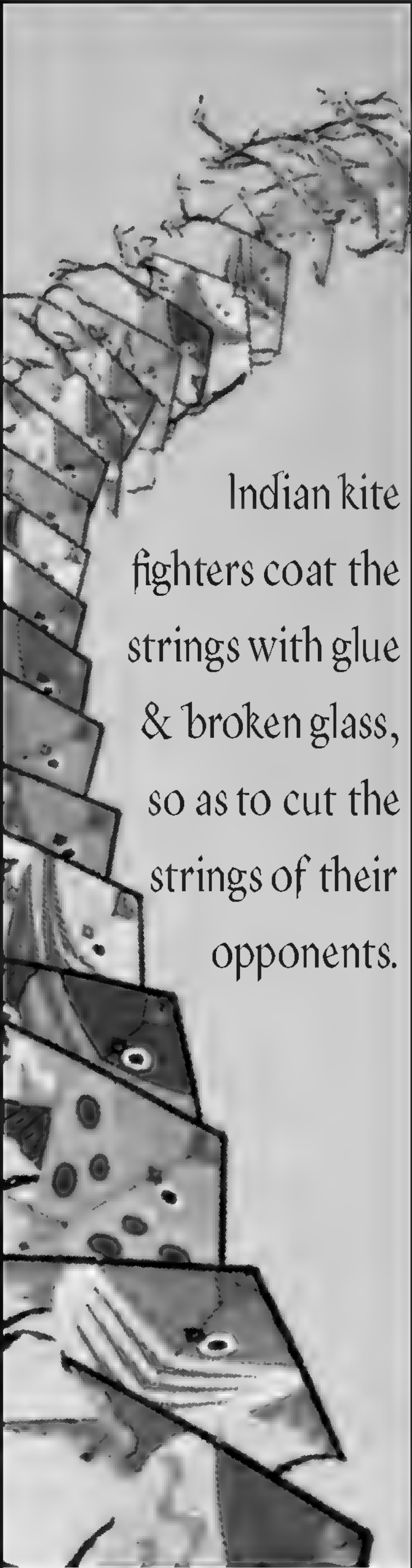
FANCY MASON-RY Panda Erin Mason (left) will be a key part of the U of A effort against Calgary.

Watching her team cool down under the floodlights after practice on Tuesday night, Duncan was optimistic.

“We’ve got a good bunch of people. We’ve got a really, really quality group,” she said. “It’s

actually exciting that we’ve been as competitive as we have this year, and it bodes well for the future as well.”

Alberta faces off against the Dinos at Foote Field East at 1pm on both Saturday and Sunday.



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NHLers bringing sexy back—and I, for one, want none of it

KIRK
ZEMBALSports
Commentary

The NHL off-season was marred by a dark day: 13 August, 2007, or The Day Mike Ricci Retired. The NHL will mourn the loss of Ricci not because he was a prolific scorer or an offensive threat of any kind, but for one simple reason—he was, and is, incredibly ugly.

I'm not being facetious; his ugliness is an exceptionally admirable quality. In this age of coloured visors, platinum-blond dye jobs, and shiny sticks, ugliness is nearing extinction on the ice. And with the new form-fitting Reebok jerseys coming out, a very important question has to be asked: is the NHL getting too man-prett?

Look at the players of yesteryear, and you'll see a busted-up, gap-toothed lug of a player with a permanent sneer. Compare *that* to the smooth, polished look of the modern player. Perhaps it has something to do with the advent of television and the rise of the celebrity sportsman; maybe more players are employing the too-pretty-to-lose strategy, à la Tom Brady or Fabio Cannavaro. Or maybe it has to do with the fact that a guy like Jarret Stoll or Sean Avery can snag girls like Rachel Hunter or Elisha Cuthbert, respectively.

This has been coming for years, and now with Ricci retiring his Picasso'd visage from the league and the clean-cut Shaun Horcoff poised to assume the throne of ugliest man in the NHL,



SHAZ-MARIELINDT

what hope do we have? How likely is it that he'll choose to wear a Tennessee top-hat, to commit an achy-breaky-big-mistakey, to go over a Kentucky waterfall; to get the haircut known, tellingly, as hockey hair?

This represents a troubling trend. If even multi-million-dollar sports heroes are being pressured to look better, what chance does your average broke, talentless, beer-gutted hockey fan have?

And what about the game itself? The league can't afford players worrying more about what that slapshot will do to their oh-so-pretty mugs than on how intimidating it would be to their opponents if they pulled a Kelly Buchberger

and blocked it with their face.

It's time to advocate for a return to the ugly NHLer. Entrusting a few noble and proud warriors like Todd Bertuzzi, Scott Nichol, Jordin Tootoo, and the aforementioned Avery to use the ancient art of the sucker-punch to bring the ugly back would solve our problem in a spectacular fashion. Then we wouldn't have to spend time talking about what these new jerseys look like. Instead, we'd be enthralled by how they wick the blood better than the old ones. And in doing so, the memory of the great Mike Ricci would be honoured in the same fashion that he played the game.

NFL fans, media prove hypocritical

BEN
CARTERSports
Commentary

For a league that runs like a car factory, there isn't often a story that causes the general public to notice, let alone question, the integrity of one of the United States' most popular institutions, the NFL. Recently, however, when the New England Patriots were fined a conditional draft pick after it was discovered that they had been using video equipment to tape an opposing team's defensive signals—an action strictly prohibited by the NFL—the outrage was palpable.

These revelations have left people fuming, and many with doubts about the sanctity and the integrity of the NFL and of the Patriots, the best team of the past decade. Though the filming scandal is dying down, the real issues remain: in the NFL, home of the most talented, dynamic athletes in the world, does this even matter? And why is anyone surprised?

Anyone who has watched an NFL game knows the extent teams go to gain any sort of advantage. The difference between a 10–6 team and an 8–8 team is the difference between mediocrity and excellence, between a rebuilding team and a playoff team.

Coaches work 100-hour weeks, and prepare for each game like generals going to war; Patriots bench boss Bill Belichick has become the poster boy for obsessive coaches everywhere. The compulsion that led him to have the opposing team taped is the same one that has won him three Super Bowls. It doesn't make sense that coaches are deified for working around the clock to get better, but are branded as cheaters when a video camera enters the picture.

The same compulsion that led him to have the opposing team taped is the same one that has won him three Super Bowls.

There has been little discussion as to whether or not the Patriots benefitted from this cheating. Though the league say they haven't found evidence for it, speculation has been rampant that the Patriots were using the camera in their three Super Bowl victories, with the implication that, if they did, those Super Bowls have somehow been soiled. However, aside from the suggestion that one of the most ridiculous, over-the-top spectacles of American commercialism could somehow be "tainted," a quick look at the three games themselves provides little evidence

to suggest so. Could prior knowledge of opposition defensive signals have resulted in the Patriots shutting down the Rams record-breaking offence in Super Bowl XXXVI? Or in Super Bowl XXXVIII, versus the Carolina Panthers, a game in which over 60 total points were scored? Or perhaps in Super Bowl XXXIX, against Philadelphia, in which Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb was unable to move his team down the field in the fourth quarter because he was dry-heaving on the field? Could taped signals have made it any easier for Adam Vinatieri to kick last-second, game-winning field goals in two of those games? It seems highly unlikely.

Football is played, as the cliché goes, "between the lines." Regardless of coaching, preparation, or anything else, it comes down to who is the better team on the field. As we've seen countless times in Patriots games over the past several seasons, it's quality players—some of the best in the NFL—that have made the difference in countless big games.

The exact nature and extent of the infractions may never be fully known. And of course, the matter of cheating is not to be dismissed out of hand, as the Patriots were warned about this action privately before they were publicly reprimanded.

But the NFL has more pressing problems to do with the integrity of their sport. It's hypocritical to criticize NFL coaches for taking advantage of every opportunity while referring to them as legendary for doing the same thing.

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looking for PT Child Care Programmers for Monday-Friday mornings (7-9am) and Tuesday/Thursday PM shifts (Tuesday 3:30-6pm, Thursday 2:30-6pm). Various locations. Work around your schedule! Free YMCA membership. Please submit resume with availability to cappel@edmonton.ymca.ca or call 429-5705.

Les Saçons Lingerie in West Edmonton Mall has two part time positions available. We are looking for long term, reliable, outgoing and hardworking university students. This position has very flexible hours, employee discount and great wage. Drop off your resume or call Nicole at 444 4992.

Male quadriplegic requires live-in aide alternate weekends. Driver's license required, with training. Lots of study time. 469-0603

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Got an hour? Be an In-School Mentor! Read. Write in a journal. Explore computers. Play in the gym. Enjoy arts and crafts. We have over 50 elementary schools to choose from in Edmonton and area. Call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 424-8181 or visit us online at [www.bbbsedmonton.org](#).

Volunteers needed 2-3 hrs/week to teach English as a second language to adult newcomers to Canada. No experience necessary. Ongoing training provided. Great opportunity to meet students from around the globe. Contact Jason at CCI-LEX, 944-0792, jmarkowsky@cci-lex.ca.

If you like hockey, and you like kids, there is a fun way to enjoy both! The Hockey Education Reaching Out Society (H.E.R.O.S.) needs you to help girls and boys from North East Edmonton learn basic skating skills and the game of hockey. Just one day a week Wednesdays from 3:30-6:30pm. On and off ice opportunities available. Come out and help make the difference in the life of a child! Hurry—we need the ice 17 October, 2007! Call Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton at 424.8181 or apply online at [www.bbbsedmonton.org](#).

PERSONALS

Sing e? Try speed dating with Edmonton date at the Fudd Lounge on 2 October. Age groups 23-33, 33-43, and 43-53. Register at 457-8535 or [www.edmontondate.ca](#)

Ten movies streaming across that, that Internet, and what happens to your own personal Internet? I just the other day got... an Internet was sent by my staff at 10 o'clock in the morning on Friday, I got it yesterday. Why? Because it got tangled up with all these things going on the Internet commercially.

It's okay—we understand the Internet a little better than this guy does.

thegatewayonline.ca

Ted Stevens hasn't heard of it

solution, tips and computer programs at [www.sudoku.com](#)

su|do|ku
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CROSSWORD

The Ontario Word

compiled by Krystian Imgrum (CUP)

The Crossword runs semi-regularly with the answer available at [www.thegatewayonline.ca/comics](#)

Across

- Author Ayn
- Support (with for)
- Surrounded by
- Ron Howard role
- Band
- Claudius I successor
- Thaw
- Degrade
- Unappetizing food
- Clean, as a bird
- Summer drinks
- Like a certain ranger
- Yucatan feature
- Bound
- Likely
- Everyman John
- Darling one
- N.I.M.H. animal
- Prison official
- Red Baron's transport
- J'ai _____
- Wooden stake
- Middle East ruler
- Protect from loss, again
- Recalcitrant youth
- Sea bird
- U2 single
- Use a spade
- Understand
- Polkaro door features
- Yearned
- Plant part
- Qualified
- Marsh plant
- Pandora's redemption
- Enraged
- Stallion's mate
- Soon
- Went steady
- Russian mountains
- Subway series team
- Vishnu and Shiva
- Cincinnati team

Down

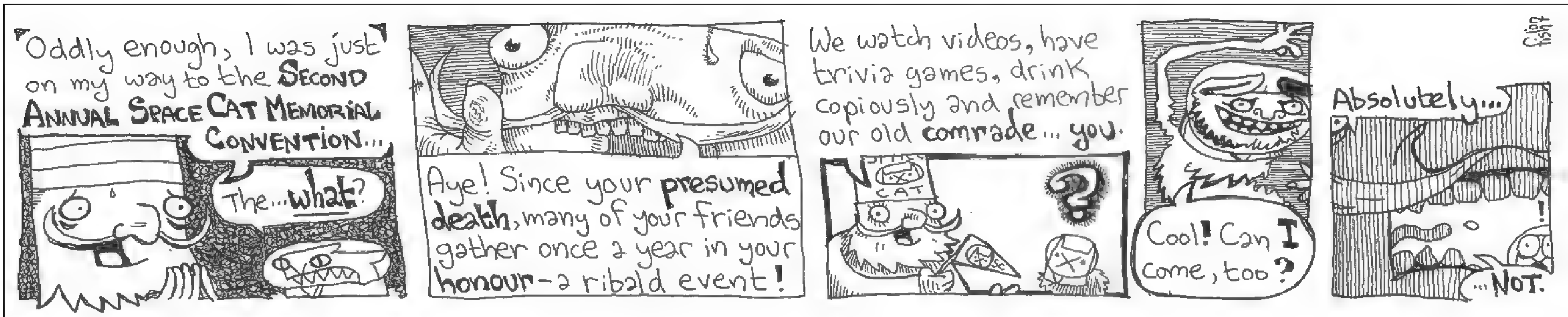
- Have a gay old time
- Mime
- Longest river
- Discourage
- Teacher's org
- Suave
- Laundry units
- Place last
- Geometry measure
- Soaps, for ex.
- Press
- Drugs, to some
- Little brother verb
- Like a naturalist
- Chemist's particle
- Puck or Pan
- Cognizant
- More pallid
- Railway station (two words)
- Choke
- Liquorice plant
- Concise
- Racket
- Itsy-bitsy
- Shepherded
- Before (pr)
- Drunkard
- Tacit
- Storage box
- Grays
- Ate selectively
- Signs
- The Academy founder
- Object to
- Hoax
- Music term
- Act conceited
- Schoolyard challenge
- Alumnus: (abbr)
- Wriggly fish
- Begley and Norton

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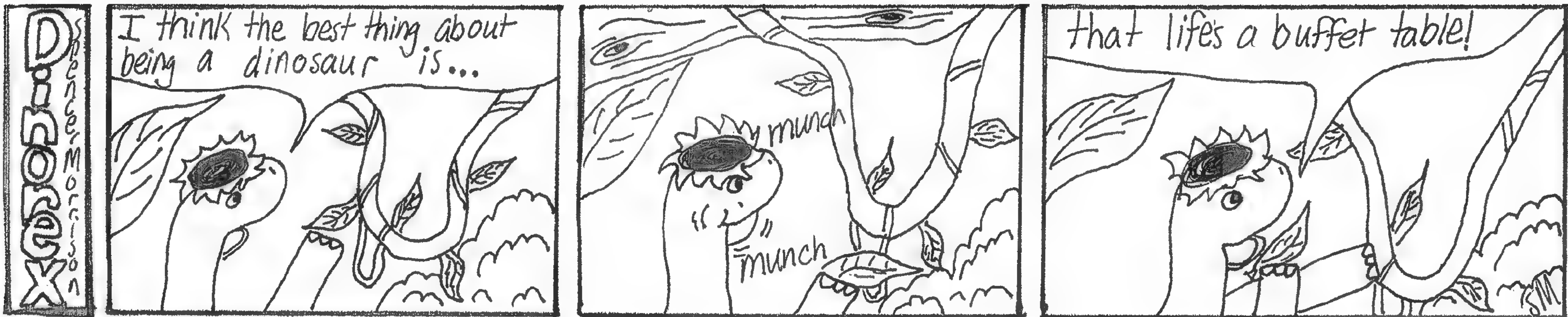
PEANUT AND CIRCLE by Chris Krause



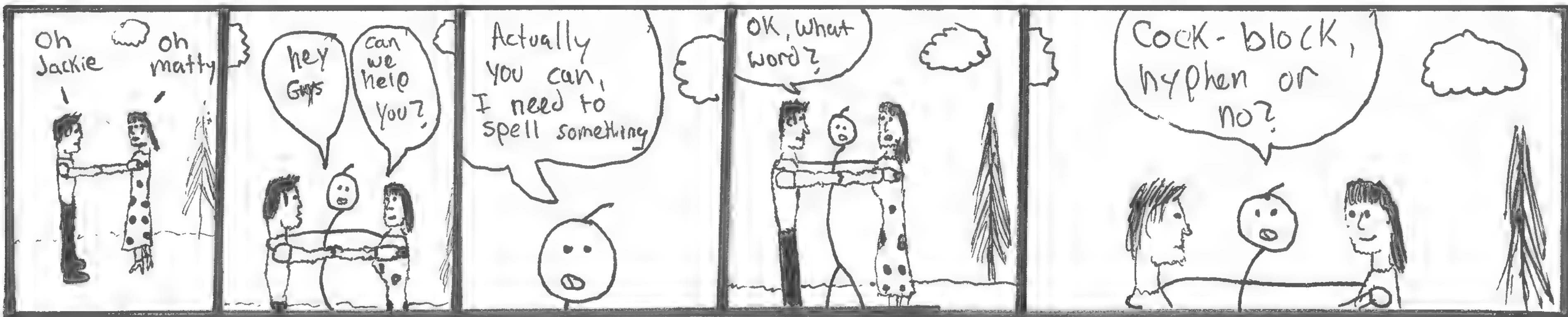
SPACE CAT by Fish Griwkowsky



DINOREX by Spencer Morrison

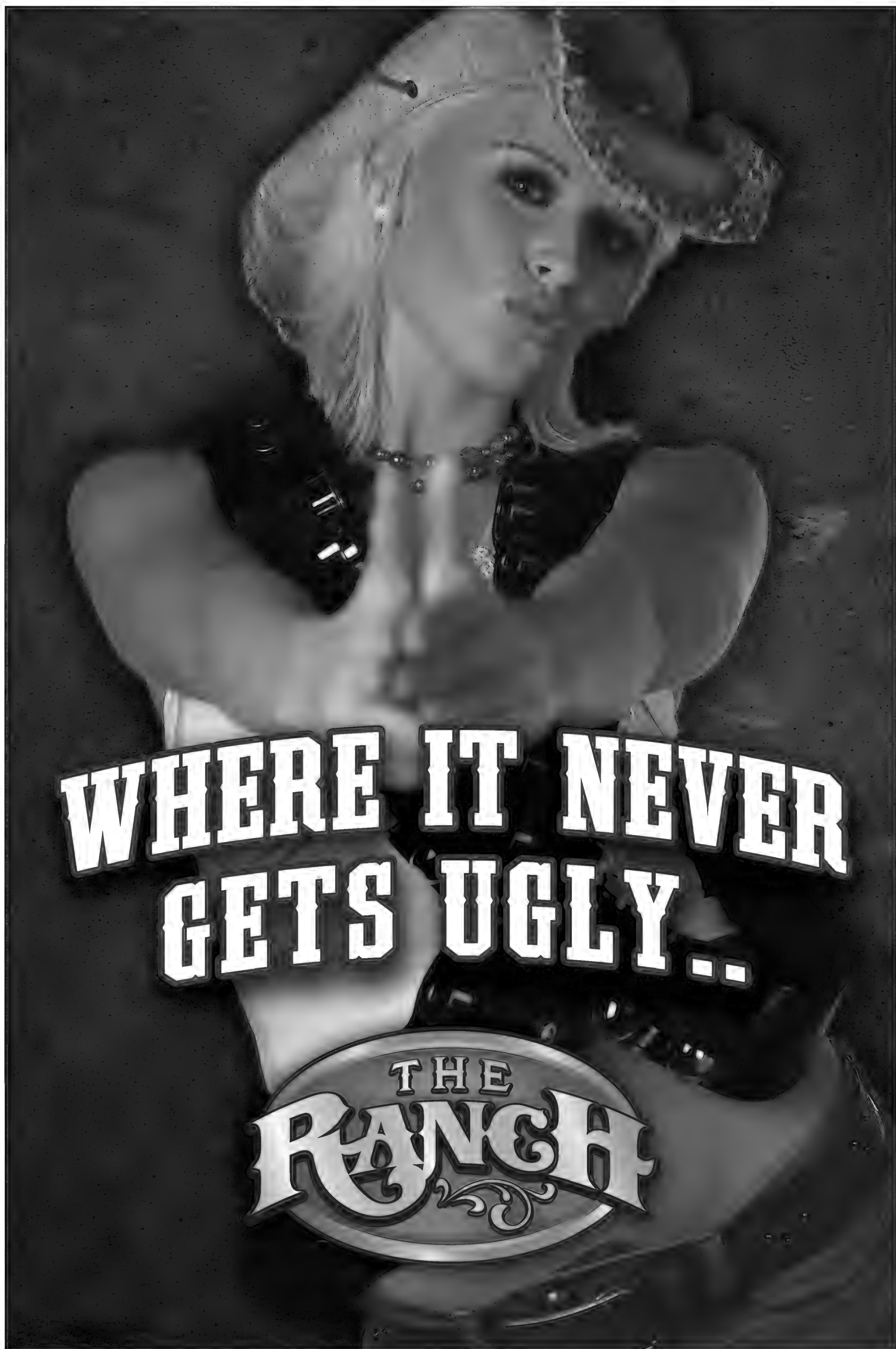


STICKMAN by Jeff Gagnon



THE CHRONICLES OF C by Mike Kendrick





**WHERE IT NEVER
GETS UGLY..**



THE GATEWAY

www.thegatewayonline.ca

thursday, 27 september, 2007
volume XCVIII number 8Published since 21 november, 1910
Circulation 12 000
ISSN 0845-356XSuite 3-04
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University of Alberta
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THE GATEWAY Student Journal, the Gateway, Student Journal Society, (GJS) is a student-run autonomous, apolitical, not-for-profit organization operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP ScanJet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super CoolScan optica film scanner. Adobe Design Suite for layout, Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, and Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files, which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we owe her dearly, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of choice are Top Gun, Tetris, and Mario 3 still.

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Academic materials policy a positive step—Anderson

SU, Bookstore, and other schools to hold national conference in November to target textbook publishers

MATERIALS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some of the report's key findings were that textbook prices are continually increasing at a rate faster than inflation, that new editions of textbooks cost more to produce and limit the availability of used editions, and that the bundling of extra materials such as CD-ROMs drives up the price of academic materials.

Samuel explained that although the study was an American one, many of its findings were transferable to Canadian publishers. Still, he recognizes that it won't be easy lobbying book publishers with such a stronghold in the industry.

"It's always a tough thing. How do you get someone to change their behaviour if they've always done well with it?" he asked.

Getting professors on board with being more proactive in selecting affordable materials is also a major goal of the SU's policy. Through educating professors about course packs and reusing older editions of textbooks, they hope to encourage those selecting the materials for courses to consider the mounting costs students are often burdened with.

"A lot of professors only make you read a few chapters of a textbook," Geller said, adding that course packs are often a better alternative for many subjects. "They're actually a really inexpensive way to provide a variety of material to students."

While the SU is receiving praise from University administration for the policy, the notion of "educating" professors is receiving some flack.

"Using that word makes it seem

as if they're deficient in knowledge. We don't think it's the role of educating the faculty—we think it's making the faculty aware," explained Mary-Jo Romaniuk, U of A Associate Vice-Provost (Learning Services).

"From the Provost's office, we will always respect academic freedom in the selection of the best course material and defer to their judgment as to what those course materials need to be to best support the teaching and learning experience," she added. "We believe that the faculty members really have those interests at hand."

However, Romaniuk still praised the SU for this policy. "We've known about this for a while, [...] and are really applauding their efforts," she said.

U of A Bookstore director Todd Anderson, who worked with the SU to create the policy, explained that pursuing this course of action makes sense for the SU right now.

"If you look at some of our colleagues south of the border, they didn't take this proactive of a stance, and what happened is there's 70 different pieces of legislation around textbooks and course material, and some of them are good for students, and some of them are not so good for students," Anderson said. "But, at the end of the day, if you let someone else make the decision for you or decide how your industry is going to work, they're going to do it. So this is a good, proactive step for the students."

Anderson explained that the SU has worked closely with the Bookstore since 1995, when the SU lobbied the store to move to a cost-recovery

**ANOTHER COST TO COVER** Students find textbooks generally expensive.

model. Efforts have also been made to lower staff costs, adjust purchasing methods, increase sales of used books, and buy from less expensive US publishers, as well as to introduce a print-on-demand book machine in October.

While the SU's policy is specifically aimed at lobbying for U of A students, they hope to engage more schools across the country by holding a conference on academic materials in November.

"What we're trying to do right is now set up a national academic roundtable on academic materials for November 21st to 23rd, [where we'll] set up a working group with other student associations, other bookstores, and specifically publishers, to try to

deliver academic materials at the best possible prices to students," Samuel explained.

Anderson, who also plans on participating in the conference, thinks getting more groups involved will be important in trying to change the way publishers do business.

"The good thing about November is that the publishers will hear from the students," he said. "There's a disconnect in our industry: the publishers talk to the professors, the professors send us requisitions, and the students come and buy a book from us. So the end consumer never talks to the producer. Hopefully what we start in November will be ongoing, where publishers can get feedback from the consumers."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Lauren Stieglitz**Jane Anderson**
Arts I**Craig Hunt**
Phys Ed III**Grant Roshau**
Engineering I**Avi Rao**
Science III

I try to buy them used, if I can, from the Bookstore. I'm only a first-year, so I'm not in on some of the tricks yet.

I get my parents to pay for my textbooks.

I buy them used from the Bookstore.

I buy them either used from SUBtitles or the Bookstore, or I buy them from friends, or I'll trade with friends. Last year, I bought a genetics book, and my friend had a biochem book, and we switched books [at the end of the semester].

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KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT Dean of Law David Percy says the faculty's new chair position will offer endless possibilities.

\$1.5 million donation to help fund new Energy Law chair

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

After close to three years of working out the details, the faculty of Law is poised to establish a new chair position in energy law and policy.

On Tuesday, a \$1.5 million donation from Borden Ladner Gervais LLP (BLG), a national firm with over 700 employees in offices across Canada, was announced. The donation will be matched by the U of A using funding from the Government of Alberta's Access to the Future endowment, with the combined sum of \$3 million providing for the energy specialist chair in perpetuity.

"By law firm standards, this is an enormous gift; it's certainly the biggest I know to support a teaching position in western Canada," said David Percy, dean of the faculty of Law. He explained that the position will allow the faculty to offer an extended range of courses in the energy law field, in addition to helping improve the staff-to-student ratio.

Percy said that with the funding confirmed, attention is now being focused

on recruiting internationally for the new position.

"The first thing we have to do is to cast our net very widely, and I think we will be looking for an individual with an academic background, but I also think we have to be flexible and realize that there are people, particularly in legal practice, who've developed a great deal of expertise in this field as well," he said.

"Although we'd like to appoint someone in 2008, it may take as long as 2009 to find the right candidate," Percy said. He stressed that given the time and effort that went into procuring the donation, the faculty will be sure to make "exactly the right choice" when hiring the new chair.

Students' Union Law Councillor Ian Stedman explained that BLG sponsors a fellowship every year, but that this year, students were told there would be a surprise announcement. Stedman added that the chair was an important step towards addressing the workplace realities of many U of A Law alumni.

"Lots of the graduates here end up in Calgary doing energy work, so it's going to be great [...] for the students

that are coming to U of A," Stedman said. "There will be a lot more opportunity to learn about the energy [sector] and all the issues affecting Canada with respect to the energy sector."

According to Percy, energy law and policy is inextricably linked with where Alberta is going to be going in the future, and that this chair is a pioneering effort by the faculty.

"There aren't any law-school-specific chairs that I'm aware of anywhere else in Canada in the field of energy law," he noted. "It's a very exciting development for the law school, [but] I also think it's a very important development for the province."

Percy said that these days energy law and policy feature prominently on the public agenda, specifically in regards to issues concerning royalty reviews and climate change, stressing that "there is little room for a calm, objective viewpoint."

"You tend to get are invested interests pursuing their own agendas, and you don't often get commentary on these vital issues of public policy from an objective standpoint," he said. "That's what I think the University can bring."

Devices hailed as a cheap alternative

MP3 • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Skjodt added that low-end stethoscopes that don't work well cost around \$30, while decent analog models are in the \$200 range and newer digital ones can cost upwards of \$500.

He added that his initial results have been quite promising, and that the recordings are significantly clearer and have less noise than the sounds transmitted through a stethoscope.

However, Skjodt says that the uses for this technology go much further than supplanting an age-old medical instrument. For example, with an MP3 player, physicians would be able to carry around hours of medical transcriptions or podcasts, as well as a collection of clinical sounds to use as a comparison.

"You can actually carry around a library of every type of abnormal clinical sound and have that on your MP3 player with lots of room to spare," he said. "For 40 bucks, you're getting a really intense value compared to the [stethoscope]."

The idea of a digital library of sounds could also be extended to artificial intelligence. As Skjodt puts it, a recording of a clinical sound could be download onto a computer,



SHAUN MOTT

DRM-FREE HEARTBEATS MP3 players may one day replace stethoscopes.

where a program would compare it to vast collection of recordings and offer a diagnosis.

Skjodt said that the idea of replacing stethoscopes with MP3 players universally is likely still a ways off, though he's confident that digital recorders will one day be commonplace in the hands of a physician.

"Why use a device [whose] technical

pross is two centuries old?" he asked. "The original stethoscope was not invented for its acoustic value—it was invented for hygiene. All the stethoscope is supposed to do is put some distance between the physician and the patient."

"Millions of people use MP3 players everyday; it's a frighteningly easy technology."

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Where wolves prey on elk mostly dependent on landscape—Boyce

CORY TOKAY
News Writer

In 1995, 14 wolves from an area west of Edmonton were introduced to Yellowstone National Park as part of a long-term study done by U of A biological sciences professor Mark Boyce. The experiment sought to find out what effects re-introducing wolves Yellowstone would have; twelve years after this reintroduction, Boyce has found that while wolf and elk populations overlap in certain areas, it's terrain features, and not location, that determine where wolves hunt their prey.

According to Boyce, the study found that wolves focus on "riparian areas"—that is, areas situated on or near the banks of a river—while "the elk would much rather be up in an ... upland area where they can see a long ways so they can see the wolves coming."

However, it seems territorially influenced hunting patterns are not unique to wolves.

"There has been some work showing similar kinds of [patterns] for lions in east Africa," Boyce said. "Likewise in

Yellowstone, there are places where the wolves do really well at killing prey.

"There are certain types of landscapes and certain types of habitats that just make it much easier for predators to kill prey."

According to Boyce, wolves employ co-operative hunting techniques, and the animals are generally quite efficient predators. However, he added that in Yellowstone, only about 20 per cent of the animals that wolves pursue are killed.

Many of the animals hunted by wolves, such as elk and moose, have proven either to be capable of outrunning their group hunts or of fending them off. Boyce, however, doesn't believe this is a significant factor for the wolves.

"The main thing limiting wolves at the moment is not prey, but other wolves," he said, adding that they're currently more likely to suffer from pack squabbles over food or territory than they are from any limitations on their food source.

The effects wolves are having on the elk populations in Yellowstone are also

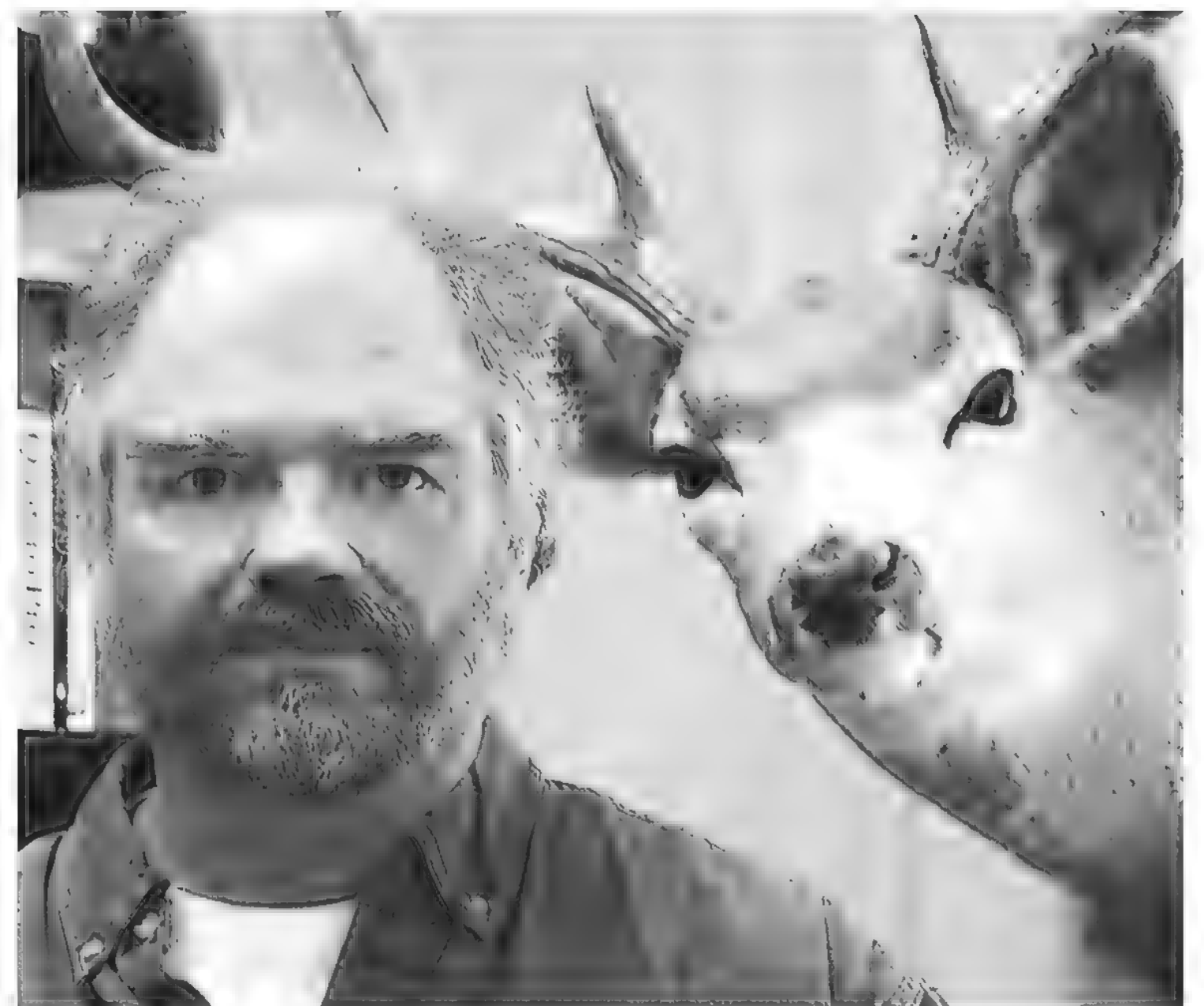
affecting other forms of life. As the elk population is reduced, the plants that elk have been eating to near extinction are given a chance to recover. As the plants regrow, other animals reliant on them for food or shelter are able once again to survive.

As the distribution of wolves changes throughout the park, so too do the distributions of biodiversity, which rely on trees that have been having trouble growing in the park because the elk are now flourishing.

According to Boyce, as a result of the increased vegetation, "there is going to be potential for habitat for beavers, and songbirds and a spectrum of animals."

"You have a whole spectrum of animals that can come in because of the wolves ultimately. They are shaping the community structure and composition."

Because of the success of the reintroduction efforts, Boyce has reviewed a delisting proposal for the US government that would take wolves off of the endangered species list; he's also recommended that the management of wolves be returned to state agencies



TARA STIEGLITZ

CLAP FOR THE WOLF MAN Marc Boyce studies where wolves hunt elk.

in those states containing wolf populations. In the future, this may allow for there to be a hunting season on wolves, though it's not yet clear what

the decisions will be.

"The States can make those kinds of decisions now, as soon as [wolves are] delisted."

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members of the
opposite sex?*

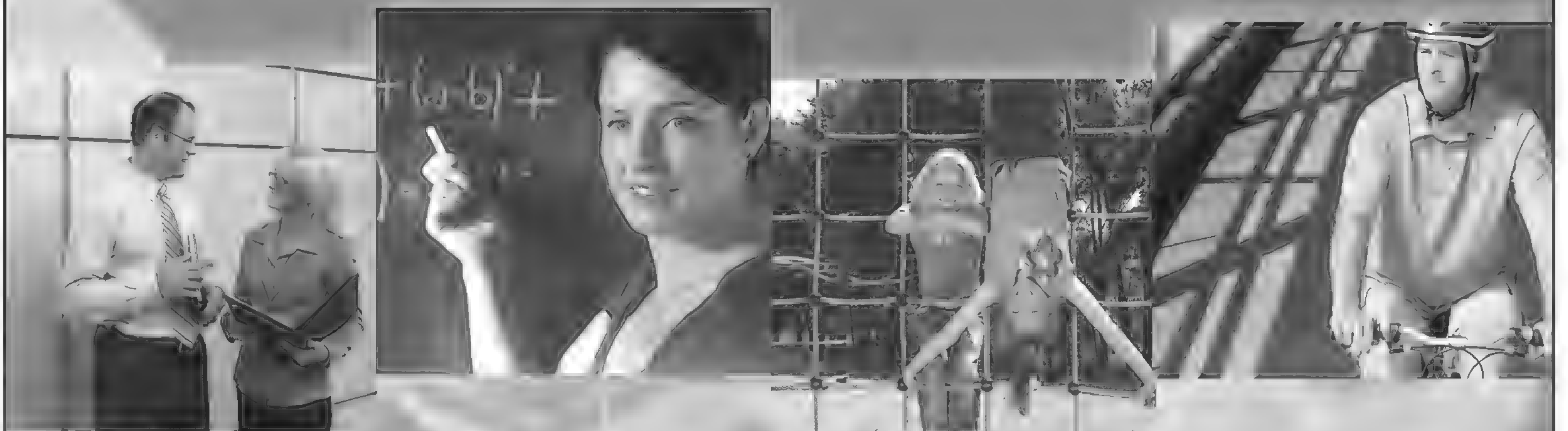


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Fate of NB universities in the air

Report on postsecondary education recommends transformation of universities into polytechnic institutes, as well as revamp of funding process

ANGELA WILSON
CUP Atlantic Bureau Chief

WOLFVILLE, NB (CUP)—The recommendations of a recent commission on postsecondary education in New Brunswick have left some institutions wondering if they'll be considered a university much longer.

The report, commissioned by the provincial government, calls for UNB's Saint John campus, along with the Université de Moncton's Shippagan and Edmundston campuses, to be converted into polytechnic institutes. According to the report, the shift would mean an education system "that embraces many aspects of a traditional university but grounds it in a more practical approach that is quite easily meshed with college programs."

The report comes in the face of declining postsecondary enrolment across the province and the growth of community colleges. The report cited a need for a shift to education that is more "community-based, learner-focused, industry-connected, and global in perspective."

More than 1000 students, alumni, and community members marched through Saint John, NB on 17 September to protest the suggested transformation of the University of New Brunswick's Saint John campus.

Eric Savoie, a spokesperson for the student's council at UNB Saint John, said that they are strongly opposed to the recommendation. According to Savoie, the recommendation raises issues of access to education.

"Limiting access to university education limits choice," he said.

At the rally through Saint John, Savoie said that "[students] sent the message that, while agreeing that change needs to happen, if UNB's Saint John campus loses their university standing, it would not be a positive step for the University."

Kathryn Hamer, Vice-President at UNB Saint John, said that UNB's

administration is also opposed to the recommendation.

"Rather than a polytechnic, which would severely limit access to liberal arts and science programs, there are other ways to meet the goals of accessibility, affordability, transferability, and choice for students, building on the strengths of existing institutions—the Community College and the University campus first and foremost," Hamer said.

"Much effort has clearly gone into this ambitious report, which, if adopted by the government, will have significant repercussions for the four public universities in the province."

ROBERT CAMPBELL
PRESIDENT
MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY

According to Hamer, the University believes that they can effectively respond to new challenges by continuing partnerships among institutions that are adequately funded and supported. She explained that existing programming partnerships that UNB Saint John has developed with the city's community college have proven the effectiveness of that approach.

New Brunswick's Ministry of Post-Secondary Education is not responding to the report quickly. In a release, the Ministry announced that the government will take the necessary time to reflect upon the Commission's work and will provide a comprehensive response once the document has been thoroughly discussed and the final decisions have been made.

University administrators, students'

unions, and lobby groups are eager to be a part of that decision-making process.

"Much effort has clearly gone into this ambitious report, which, if adopted by the government, will have significant repercussions for the four public universities in the province," said Mount Allison University President Robert Campbell.

Aside from the recommended polytechnic institutes, the report also forwarded suggestions on a number of other issues, most notably how students pay for a postsecondary education.

Justin Robichaud, President of the New Brunswick Student Alliance, praised the suggestions on financing postsecondary education, saying they believe "that the government should act on the financial aid suggestions as soon as possible. We are lobbying the government to push those issues onto the agenda quickly, so that we can have those elements in the next provincial budget."

The report advocates the re-regulation of tuition fees, provided that universities turn some of the excess revenue into student aid packages. It also provides recommendations for a "three-pronged" student aid program that would cap the amount of debt a student is allowed to accumulate at \$7000 per year and reduce tuition fees for low-income students. It also calls for the introduction of an improved debt-management program.

The province is currently in the process of analyzing the different recommendations made in the report. But until a decision is made, Savoie is hopeful that students will continue to be at the centre of the decision-making process.

"The government seems adamant that the primary goal is for the results of the commission report to be beneficial to students. Our hope lies in students being at the centre of the decision-making process."

Student health plan covers HPV vaccine

MAGALLY ZELAYA
The Manitoban

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Female students under the age of 26 at the University of Manitoba now have the cost of the new HPV vaccine Gardasil covered by their students' union's health plan.

This is the first year that the vaccine, which provides immunity against four strains of the virus that can cause cervical cancer, will be covered by the plan. The vaccine was approved for use in females 9–26 years old by Health Canada in July 2006.

"The HPV virus is ubiquitous, and that really means that it's not a question of if you will be exposed to HPV—it's a question of when," said Dr Tim Hilderman, director of communicable disease control for Manitoba Health.

Hilderman said the vaccine "is another tool for advancing women's health and sexual health overall."

"The health insurance plan committee decided to look further into a safer-sex awareness campaign and include, on top of that, having an HPV campaign," said Garry Sran, President of the University of Manitoba Students' Union.

However, Hilderman cautioned that the vaccine should be used in

conjunction with healthy sexual practices, such as the use of condoms.

"People need to realize that while this vaccine offers protection, it does not mean Pap smears and cervical cancer screening stops," Hilderman said.

Gardasil, manufactured by Merck & Co Inc, is one of the most costly vaccines available, with a base price of \$405. It isn't covered under Manitoba's provincial health plan and is only available by prescription.

In Winnipeg, the vaccine, which is administered as a series of three injections over six months, ranges in price from \$455 to \$495, depending on pharmacy dispensing fees and markup. Because all three doses must be purchased separately to ensure correct storage, dispensing fees are also issued for each dose.

The vaccine offers protection against the four most prevalent strains of the human papilloma virus: types 6 and 11, which are the low-risk strains responsible for 90 per cent of genital wart cases, and types 16 and 18, which are the high-risk strains that cause 70 per cent of all cervical cancers.

HPV is also the cause of abnormal cell changes on the cervix, and increases the risk of cancers of the anus, vagina, vulva, and penis.

HPV is one of the most common

sexually transmitted infections in the country, according to Health Canada. Most people who contract the virus will not have any symptoms, and the immune system will clear the virus from their bodies. It's estimated that 75 per cent of sexually active men and women will have at least one HPV infection in their lifetime.

The virus is transmitted by skin-to-skin contact, and condoms don't necessarily provide protection. Because most people don't have any signs or symptoms, it's impossible to tell if someone is carrying the virus by visual inspection. There are over 100 strains of HPV, 30 of which are sexually transmitted.

"This vaccine does not protect against some of the other cancer causing types—that's why [there's] the need for ongoing screening," Hilderman said.

The 2007 federal budget allocated \$300 million to support the HPV vaccine program. How the money is spent is left up to each province and territory.

Hilderman said that the Canadian Immunization Committee is coming out with a report designed to answer some of the questions about how to best deliver the program in the coming months.



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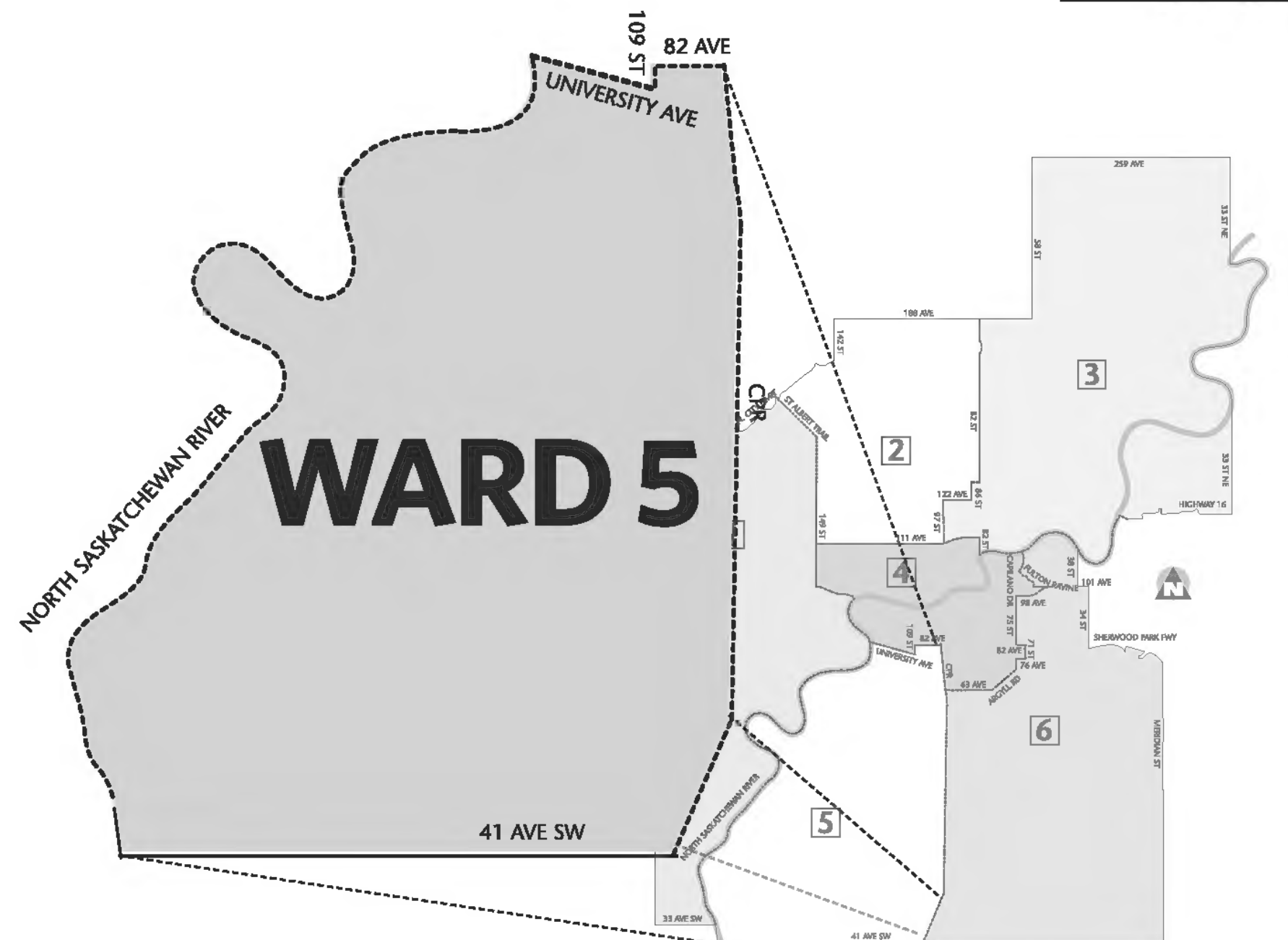
PART 2 OF 2

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER, AND AS VOTERS GET READY TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS, THE GATEWAY SITS DOWN WITH SOME OF THE FRONT-RUNNERS IN WARDS 4 and 5—where the majority of students live—to find out why each believes they are the candidate you should be voting for.

On Tuesday, we interviewed candidates in Ward 4. Today, we move south and a little west into Ward 5—geographically south of the University's main campus, but home to South Campus, as well as a large portion of university students living off-campus.

Housing and the LRT are huge issues for the Ward 5 candidates, and are also much closer to home, as the current LRT expansion, and subsequent transit shuffle will affect Ward 5 more than any other.

COMPILED BY BEN ETTINGER, SCOTT FENWICK, CATHERINE SCOTT, AND SARAH SCOTT
PHOTOS BY MIKE OTTO AND RYAN SHIPPELT



Brett Michalyk

Brett Michalyk worked as the owner of Leduc Auto and RV sales for ten years before getting involved in construction and becoming a carpenter. In 2006, he became president of Blackmud Creek Community League, and has gone on to serve as a board member of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.

How do you plan on representing students in your ward?

Listening to the issues that matter to them. Have young people become more interested in their world by becoming involved locally and solving the issues that plague the rest of the world. Homelessness, social issues.

What postsecondary issues do you consider most pertinent?

Affordable housing and transit.

What can be done to alleviate housing costs in Edmonton?

Create an Edmonton community investment fund to start developments with non-profit organizations to provide cheaper housing like \$500 per month bachelor pads. Identify areas that could be used such as the U of A farms on Ellerslie Road, which go back to the Provincial Government in 2011; the new towncentre at 25 Avenue SW and 111 Street; lands by the Commonwealth Stadium; and the CP Rail yard at Whyte Avenue. Make a plan and do it.

What can be done to make campus more accessible in terms of transportation?

The transit system is in the middle of an assessment of services. It would be hoped that all affected parties would have a say on how they would like to see routes, times, and rider incentives managed. At present, with the addition of the South LRT to Foote Field and the future student residences, the U of A seems to be well-served.

Write a haiku on why you are the right candidate to represent student interests.

Experience and heart
A chance to make a big change
Next generation



Don Iveson

Don Iveson is the former director of the advocacy department of the Students' Union. A U of A grad in 2001, Iveson has also served as Vice-President of the Malmo Plains Community League, President of Canadian University Press and business manager for the Gateway. This is his first run at city council.

How do you plan on representing students in your ward?

The same way I would represent anyone in Ward 5. All Edmontonians should have a voice with effective representation. Obviously, students are close to my heart though, having worked with them—for them—for the last eight or nine years. So, I feel close to a lot of the issues that are of paramount importance to students, particularly transit, housing. There are areas that are important to the whole city that just also happen to be important for students.

Effectively, compassion for students on particular issues, but it has to balance with the needs with all the constituents of Ward 5. And when you're a city councillor, it's really a two-headed beast. On one hand, you're a local representative, and you have to be an advocate for things in your community—sometimes for, sometimes against them on a basis on what the community instructs you to do. And then the other half of being a city councillor is essentially being like a director of about a \$1.6 billion-a-year corporation. And that's the opportunity to make decisions for the greater good of the whole city, and students are a huge part of what makes this a special city, as there are over 100 000 learners at the major postsecondary institutions. Postsecondary is increasingly a backbone sector, not only of our economy, but of the vibrancy of our city.

What postsecondary issues do you consider most pertinent?

In the municipal context, transportation and

housing. Students need to get to and from where they live, and they need a place to live. Those two issues are of short-term, immediate importance for students in Edmonton. But secondary to that, for the long term, is the question of the kind of city we're building. Are we building a vibrant place that students who study here are going to stay in, start their business, or do their ground-breaking research, or to contribute to their community in one way or the other? Or are we building the kind of city that people simply pass through? My vision is for a city that is not only great for learners, but the kind of place that people, when they come here, won't want to leave.

What can be done to alleviate housing costs in Edmonton?

A number of things—I'm a supporter of the liberalization or legalization of secondary suites in all neighbourhoods in the city. I think we have to have certain rules, but rules are a good thing—we can't throw the doors wide open. But rules are a good thing because, right now, there are no rules for secondary suites. There are a lot of unsafe dwellings out there that have students and other kinds of people that have a tough time making ends meet. They don't meet fire code; they may have mold issues; they may not be well heated. They're not conducive for study. And so, if we legalize them, we can better enforce safety.

And also, we can make it easier to open up more supply in shorter timelines—the same way they did in Toronto, Vancouver, and Saskatoon. That adds density, which helps support public transit. Public transit, by the way, can also help with the cost of housing. If someone is able to get around more economically with efficient, good public transit, that can lower total cost of living for them.

And finally, the City has a role to play in supporting the University's request to build student

housing because I think that's an innovative way to add supply to the market, with very few downsides compared to building traditional public housing—because it doesn't need parking, the University already has the land, and frankly, students will live in quite a small footprint compared to what you would have to supply a bachelor suite [with] as an entry-level product in the marketplace.

What can be done to make campus more accessible in terms of transportation?

I thought that was done. It had a little something to do with the Universal Bus Pass. That's really a start. I mean, accessing campus is a multi-model start—there's still plenty of people who drive and there are a lot of people who bike and walk. I know the University is working on facilities for cyclists: secure lockups, shower facilities, and so on. But I'll believe it when I see it. So, we need to do something for cyclists. But that's in the University context.

What can the City do to enhance access to campus? Well, I'm sure that transit service is adequate or better to meet interest from the U-Pass. At the end of the day, service levels have to be there. I think we need to redesign public transit in Edmonton from the ground up anyway, to make it more intuitive, to make it more reliable, to reassure people that it's safe. And that will make a phenomenal difference too.

We have the Pass. We have the all-access pass system [that] could use a lot of improvement. It's good for students for the most part, but for other students that can't make use of it right now; for many Edmontonians, transit is not a viable option. We still have a long way to go.

Write a haiku on why you are the right candidate to represent student interests.

Ward 5 needs new reps
Diplomatic and focused
It's time for smart growth



A graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, Bryan Kent Anderson served as a teacher in Edmonton from 1964–1998, when he was elected to his first term as a councillor. Anderson has been a part of Edmonton city council ever since, and is running for his fourth term.

How do you plan on representing students in your ward?

Well, I think that if they have issues that are personal as opposed to group, my office is available to be contacted. We've got a 48-hour reply target, and we've returned calls, emails, and letters to over 10 000 people over the past nine years. I think there is a great deal of satisfaction in that they have been heard. As far as students generally are concerned, I think also expanding the LRT and expanding the areas within the city that students can reside in; we are working on increasing the availability of secondary suites both in suburban and mature areas. We've also instituted the U-Pass, which will make getting to and from a lot more functional.

I'm quite prepared to negotiate with the City administration on behalf of students to strike a deal between the University and the City to reduce property taxes on student residences. The University is planning a major residence at the South Campus—as the new LRT station becomes functional, this puts pressure on the University, City, and Province to complete negotiations that will allow the construction of these residences immediately adjacent to the station.

What postsecondary issues do you consider to be the most pertinent?

I don't think there's any doubt that a place to live for students [who] do not have Edmonton addresses already is extremely important; indeed, I think it is probably the primary issue in the city of Edmonton that affects young adults of any kind. Once they graduate, the cost of starter homes and the amount of money a young person—student or not—has to pour down the rental toilet is extremely important.

We've got to understand that the City of Edmonton does not want to become a real estate company and own accommodations. If the city is the best delivery point for this service, then

we need to have the provincial and federal governments step up and provide the funding that allows Edmonton to deliver affordable housing of all kinds—ownership as well as rental.

What can be done to alleviate housing costs in Edmonton?

Edmonton has created a special initiative on housing called Cornerstones. They have committed \$5 000 000 [over] five years to that particular project. It's intended to meet two major objectives: one, provide an additional 2500 units of long-term affordable housing in Edmonton over the next five years, and two, advocate for increased provincial income and service supports to meet Edmonton's short-term housing needs. We have already undertaken a fixed-rate rent supplement pilot project announced in October '06. A \$200 rent supplement is providing more affordable rents for up to 400 lower-income households in Edmonton over the next five years.

We are looking at rebating the development costs to construction companies and developers who are prepared to step up and build rental units and affordable housing. As of March '07, 15 units have received a rebate. That doesn't sound like a lot, but you can have anywhere from 5 to 500 units within one particular project.

The City also made a presentation to the Provincial Standing Policy Committee on Health and Wellness to seek provincial support services to address homeless needs. This doesn't address students directly; however, there are more and more students showing up at food banks and a variety of other social service sites. Because of our presentation, the Alberta Government committed \$5 000 000 over three years for support services pilot projects in Edmonton. Are these directly going to affect students? We can't say at this particular time, but if it's going to make some of the social service issues go away for some of the students, then I think it's a benefit.

What can be done to make campus more accessible in term of transportation?

There is no doubt in the world that when you start bringing 35 000 or 40 000 people, plus staff, profs, and maintenance to one site anywhere in the city of Edmonton, you've got yourself a major

transportation issue. The University does hold dearly the revenue they derive from a lot of their parking sites. However, they're eating up these parking sites with the construction of new buildings and new research facilities. Construction on campus is unprecedented, the research money that's been given to the University of Alberta is unprecedented, and there is not space.

Witness the fact that the research facilities for large animal research have been moved off campus—outside of the city. This is going to free up space a lot sooner than planned. The development plan for South Campus won't change too much, but it will advance. Instead of 10–20 years, we're talking 3–10. If that occurs, you are not only going to find a real dearth of parking at main campus, but you're going to find restricted parking at South Campus.

The City is also starting in '09 a widening and rehab project of Quesnel Bridge. We are widening the Whitemud from 149th to 122nd Street. We're providing curb lanes that will be accessible by Bus Rapid Transit from the west end. We are providing free-flow lane access from the West End, across Quesnel, up Fox Drive and to the LRT station, and then building a flyover out of South Campus and back over Belgravia Drive to allow buses to easily return to the west end. The plans for this have been approved, and construction should start hopefully before the snow flies. The U-Pass is going to allow students to go between the Main Campus, South Campus, and the Bay by eventually only swiping a U-Pass card.

There is no doubt in my mind that as parking becomes harder and harder, people are going to be using cars less and less. One of the City's priority items is to improve transit service that will allow shorter waiting at stops, shorter walking distances from wherever people live, more direct connections between where people live and LRT stations both south and northeast. Also our priority LRT extension is to service NAIT and Grant MacEwan campuses.

Write a haiku on why you are the right candidate to represent student interests

Experience yes
Performance I promise you
Call, I will respond



Mike Nickel is an Edmonton-born U of A graduate, with a degree in political science. After failing in runs for mayor in 1998 and 2001, Nickel was elected to city council in 2004. He is also a businessman for Western MarbleCraft, which is owned by the Nickel family.

How do you plan on representing students in your ward?

I think, you know, you have to address it issue by issue. Ward 5 has about 60 000 households, so you've got a pretty diverse group of interests and people in it. Students, of course, are one part of that group. I think city council or the City of Edmonton's number one issue that we've got to address for students is housing, particularly affordable housing. There are a number of things that the City's been working on. [...] We've been working on Cornerstones, which unfortunately turns into more of a social housing program than it is an affordable housing program. That stuff is going to be coming up in November.

Of course, you know the LRT is a big thing. I'm a big believer of public transit, always have been. I'm a strong advocate for LRT because we couldn't develop the south-side campus unless we got LRT through that. I guess you've got to have to put it this way: I [deal] with those couple of issues. This is a pretty diverse constituency. There is about a 100 000 people in our group.

What postsecondary issues do you consider to be the most pertinent?

It's the housing—it's affordable housing. That's where the City can help. Postsecondary issues are provincial or federal matters. If you want to

talk about tuition, the cost of books, the sizes of your classes, that sort of stuff, the City can't do a lot for that. What we can do is try to get you here with public transit that's clean and efficient, and a LRT system that gets you here in a clean and efficient fashion; then it's housing.

We've plunked a lot of money down, as a city, on the LRT. We're right now going through a revision of our transit system, going through the routes. I don't know if you know this, but let me give you some numbers. We spend more on public transit than we do on police in the city of Edmonton, once you function in depreciation costs. The police, it works out to about \$190 million; public transit works out to about \$240 million. We're not getting value. I know a lot of students—not just students, a lot of people complain that transit doesn't work for them. That's got to be fixed.

What can be done to alleviate housing costs in Edmonton?

I have a different approach to the housing issue than a lot of people on city council. I think there are probably three things you'll hear over and over and over: smaller government, less regulation, lower taxes. I think the market, if we get out of their way, can increase the rental supply. That's where we're having our problems. If you increase the rental supply, then the onus of the City [will fall on] public transit to meet that rental supply, so we can get you in and out of the institution. That's where it's got to start from.

Right now, we're rolling about \$169 million dollars between three orders of government—federal, provincial, municipal—into [...] affordable housing, and throwing a lot to the [non-government

organizations], and they're basically trying to help build the builders. That's not going to work, simply because the problem is going too fast. They just don't have the efficiency that a builder does to bring up an apartment block.

What can be done to make campus more accessible in terms of transportation?

It has to be LRT. When I first got down there three years ago, I knew if we didn't get LRT out of the ground here somewhere to the south side, we're never going to develop the south-side campus. We couldn't get people in and out of the Edmonton clinic. You can't get enough cars in there. Where are they going to park? As much as the University would like to rake it in on parking—because I know they make a lot of money on parking—it's just [that] the numbers aren't going to work.

Now the [issue] is to rationalize public transit a little more, so it actually is functional to get you to and from campus. For example, [that] the buses don't come late. That doesn't work for the guys who are running a manufacturing plan in west Edmonton. It doesn't work for students. This is a 24-hour city, and it's got to function 24 hours; transit needs to function 24 hours. Problems on Whyte Avenue—you hear the complaints about students on Whyte Avenue, but how do you get them out after midnight? Taxis don't want them, so where's public transit?

Write a haiku on why you are the right candidate to represent student interests.

Been here before; though
Times may have past, basics are
Housing, transit, LiRT

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Watching over our Northern wealth

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE Canadian Arctic and my freezer? There are many very plausible answers to this joke, and most of them ("the Arctic is only frozen *eleven* months of the year"; "My ice trays aren't worth billions of dollars"; "The Russians never planted a flag on my frozen peas") aren't funny in the least. Nor should they be—after all, Arctic sovereignty is no laughing matter.

In response to a recent increase in foreign interest in the region—which was in turn caused by less recent discoveries of oil, gold, diamonds, and all the other goodies that make obscenely rich men's eyes light up like a 13-year-old who figured out his parents' NetNanny password—the Canadian government has announced plans to build a sophisticated, hi-tech fibre optic monitoring system in the Northwest Passage to keep track of both ship and submarine travel.

Now, this seems like a great idea, only we've already established that, other than the temperature, the Arctic is nothing like a freezer. If we, as a country, really care about these ice-covered rocks north of 60, we'd be much better off forgoing the warnings and simply packing our freezer so full of shit that any potential intruders couldn't find what they're looking for.

Canada's grip on the Arctic has been slipping ever since the downsizing of the military following the end of the Cold War. While there was certainly little need of continuing early-warning bases in the Arctic, the military presence in the region was necessary because it's otherwise largely devoid of people. According to the 2006 Census, about 70 000 residents live in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut combined, which puts about 0.037 people on every square kilometer in the former, and 0.016 in the later. With almost a third of those folks centred in Yellowknife, the spread is even thinner. The Arctic would be a lot more secure if there were actually a major economic centre consisting of people who strongly recognize themselves as Canadian.

Perhaps the government couldn't have been expected to maintain superfluous CAF bases up there just to keep a solid grip on the North, but they could've taken other measures to encourage more citizens to relocate up there—especially since people wouldn't of their own free will. The fact that there isn't a deepwater port in the Northwest Passage or in an Eastern Arctic centre like Iqaluit severely limits the economy almost year-round as the various bays and inlets that the towns are built on freeze up in the colder months.

Additionally, food, especially of the fresh variety, is difficult to come by since the land is so difficult to farm—attempts to do so in Rankin Inlet in the '60s and '70s only resulted in fatter polar bears. As a result, most of the remote towns are forced to pay double for milk and bread or survive on what the barge brings in when the ice finally melts enough for it to dock.

While the government offers enticing incentives to federal employees who agree to work in the North, those same incentives have yet to stretch to private companies. As such, while the population is steadily growing for both the NWT and Nunavut, neither has experienced the boom necessary to tighten Canada's hold on the region. And while more natural resources are discovered in the region all the time, older mines are shutting down, making that work even more unpredictable for potential relocaters.

If the government is serious about establishing dominance in the region, it's going to have to take a little more action than what boils down to a fancy sonar setup. Until they do, there's a serious risk of finding Yuri and Ivan in the kitchen, bogarting all the curly fries.

PAUL OWEN
Managing Editor

Smashing pumpkins... and heads

Dude dies while moshing
This never would have happened
If D'arcy were there

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor



CONAL PIERSE

LETTERS

Hudema shames us all

(Re: "Former SU prez put on probation," 20 September). Having someone like Mike Hudema represent the environmental cause is an absolute embarrassment—he discredits the entire movement.

There are a great number of active students on campus trying to change cultural norms with respect to our environmental responsibilities who do it in a way that's meaningful; rather than playing pranks for shits and giggles. "Radical cheerleading" alienates important players who absolutely need to be part of the solution.

When Hudema steps in front of the oil industry—who are as much part of the problem as is every one of us who demands the goods of the industry—it makes students come off as self-serving, irresponsible fools. Most students are anything but that.

The Gateway perpetrates this kind of nonsense by writing a story of sympathy full of euphemistic language, which leads to reader to believe Hudema is an innocent lamb being slammed by the Man. That's bullshit. Do you think the University would kick someone off campus for simply "asking the organizers if he could listen to their speeches"? You expect us to buy such crap?

Let's make changes on a personal level that'll force industry to change. Let's change our own lifestyles and leave the pajamas at home.

DANIEL EGGERT
Economics IV

Activists willing to stand up, freak out Man

Jonn Kmech's article starts off with the assumption that "as students, we protest everything" (Re: "Get active against poor protesting," 25 September). This is an assumption often used to discredit activists by painting them as people who simply hate the world and will use any opportunity to try to put on a costume, rather than viewing activists as people who are willing to risk isolation, criticism, and other repercussions to try to bring about a progressive change.

I think it's fairly evident to everyone that Alberta is not a protest-rich environment and that the U of A is not a hub of vibrant resistance, and in my estimation, articles like Mr Kmech's serve only to further isolate those willing to stand up rather than encouraging it.

The second criticism given is that the style of protest—cheerleading—doesn't inform the viewer, and instead, is meant to simply cause a nuisance. Again, this is another well-worn criticism and assumption. As activists we use a variety of tactics.

In addition to the Shell disruption, the group has held public forums on the tar sands, met with government and industry officials, tabled at various events handing out literature, put together research fact sheets, gave government comment on issues relating to the tar sands, conducted trainings on a variety of topics, organized a petition to the provincial government, held a training camp with a panel of experts, written letters to

the editor, and basically organized a lot of activities designed to educate people on just how destructive the tar sands are.

The Shell event was just one activity in a much larger campaign and should be judged as such. Activists put in a lot of work that goes unnoticed, media are often unwilling to report on it, and, unfortunately, forums for debate and dialogue that CEOs will attend are few and far between.

In my [opinion] the Radical Cheerleaders are fun, engaging, and able to deliver a message in a way that exemplifies those qualities. Our message was partially to the students that attended, but most of it was to the director of operations of Shell himself.

The message—in addition to being about how we need to move from a petroleum-based economy, and that rather than digging up an area the size of Florida and potentially poisoning people downstream, we should switch to more sustainable means—was that he shouldn't be able to recruit on our campus for one of the world's most socially and environmentally devastating projects and do it completely unabated.

Now was it the most successful protest I've ever been to? No. Do I feel that, with time, it could've been improved? For sure. But do I feel that these people should be challenged, [and that they] shouldn't be able to recruit for such a damaging project without some [form of] opposition? Definitely.

MIKE HUDEMA
Alumnus-in-Exile

Cycling not so dangerous if you're careful about it

The recent tragic deaths of two city cyclists are indeed a partial product of the North American mindset—and its resulting policies—that bikes don't belong on the street (Re: "Cyclists second-rate citizens on Edmonton roadways," 20 September).

As Adam Gaumont suggested last week, the City of Edmonton has done very little to encourage its citizens to use bikes in order to get around in terms of providing infrastructure.

But though I applaud his concern for the well-being of cyclists, and agree that more should be done to ensure their safety, I disagree with his assertion that "bicycle-commuting in Edmonton has always been a risky business." Unsafe cycling is dangerous just like unsafe driving, unsafe skiing, or unsafe golfing are dangerous.

It's not hard to cycle safely, but unfortunately most of us either don't know how, or can't be bothered. I'm not suggesting that either of last week's victims are to blame—I don't know how they were behaving when they were hit—but what I do know is that statistically, cycling in Edmonton is no more dangerous than driving.

Accidents will always happen, and no matter how safely we try to bike or drive, there's always the risk of being hurt due to someone else's negligence or just sheer bad luck.

This is no reason to be scared of cycling.

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